

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 9 DECEMBER 2023

WEATHER



Forecast: Overcast Clouds.
Max/Min temp. 30/19 °C

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ASTROGUIDE

Shobhakruti: Dakshinayana

Tithi: Karthika Bahula Dwadasi full day

Star: Chitra till 10.39 am

Variyam: 4.30 pm to 6.11 pm

Durmuhuram: 6.38 am to 8.06 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HJRI CALENDAR

Jamadi ul Awwal 24, 1445 H

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.31 am

Zohar: 12.18 pm

Asar: 4.06 pm

Magrib: 5.48 pm

Isha: 7.01 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 06.35 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM

MOONRISE 2.59 AM

MOONSET 2.49 PM

COUNTER POINT



Remember, you used to travel in a 32-car convoy with 12 Black Cats...



WORLD | 10

Canada to double cost for global students



SPORTS | 14

ICC rates WC final pitch 'average'



TABLOID

Gambhir's 'fixer' barb is unpardonable

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Mahua expelled for 'cash for questions' scam

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, DEC. 8



TIMELINE

Oct. 15 | BJP MP Nishikant Dubey accuses TMC MP Mahua Moitra of taking bribes from businessman Darshan Hirandani.

Oct. 19 | Hirandani, in an affidavit to the ethics committee, claims Moitra gave him her Parliament ID and password to post questions directly on her behalf.

Oct. 26 | Lok Sabha ethics panel summons Moitra on Oct. 31.

Moitra writes she cannot appear. She is again summoned on Nov. 2.

Nov. 2 | Moitra, supported by Opposition MPs, walks out of the ethics meeting, alleging vendetta.

Nov. 9 | The ethics panel recommends Moitra's ouster from LS, based on its findings.

Nov. 10 | Ethics panel submits its 479-pages report to the Speaker.

Dec. 8 | The report is adopted in the LS.

Moitra loses MP status.

Equating the action with hanging by a kangaroo court, Moitra alleged that the parliamentary panel was being weaponised by the government to force the Opposition into submission.

Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc, leaders staged a walkout from the House.

Page 9: Panel broke all rules: Moitra

Page 2: Good response to Praja Bhavan name

Revanth's 1st TS Praja Darbar brings ray of hope to people

Plea for pensions, complaints on Dharani, landgrab by BRS dominate Day 1



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy interacts with the people and receives applications regarding their grievances during the first Praja Darbar at the CM Camp Office on Friday.

CM IN DELHI FOR PORTFOLIO TALKS

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy left for Delhi on Friday evening to meet the party top brass to discuss allocation of portfolios to newly-inducted ministers into his Cabinet and MLC nominations. He will return by Saturday morning to attend the Legislative Assembly session at 11 am.

Full report on Page 8

SPEAKER ELECTION SET FOR DEC. 14

Hyderabad: The State Legislative Assembly will meet on Saturday to facilitate the newly-elected MLAs to take oath as members of the House even as the election of the Speaker has been scheduled for December 14. Vikarabad MLA G. Prasad Kumar leads the race for the post.

Full report on Page 2

Senior power babu not seen at review

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

With several former bureaucrats appointed as advisers by the previous BRS regime still clinging to their posts, the Revanth Reddy government is said to have decided to sack them in a day or two.

Official sources told Deccan Chronicle that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to issue orders terminating the services.

At a high-level review meeting, Revanth Reddy categorically said that the

farm sector should be provided with power supply during the rabi season.

The review meeting was attended by ministers Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

In the long term, the Chief Minister wanted the officials including those from the finance wing to come up with proposals to address the mounting debt burden of the utilities.

However, D. Prabhakar Rao, whose resignation as chairman and managing director of TSGenco and TSTransco was rejected by the Chief Minister, was conspicuous by his absence.

Page 3: Not informed of meet: Prabhakar Rao

AKBAR PRO-TEM SPEAKER, IRKS BJP

Hyderabad: AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi will be the new pro-tem Speaker for the Assembly and will conduct the swearing-in of the MLAs-elect in the Assembly. The BJP has said that it will not take the oath administered by Owaisi, who will take from the governor.

Full reports on Page 8

FREE RTC BUS TRAVEL FOR WOMEN FROM TODAY | PAGE 2

KCR stable after total left hip replacement surgery

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8



K.T. Rama Rao and BRS MP J. Santosh Kumar with former chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao at a city hospital on Friday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

including IV fluids, prophylactic antibiotics and pain medication.

His condition will be assessed on Saturday, the hospital said, adding that

the "usual course of recovery is expected to be six to eight weeks."

Page 3: KCR slipped, fell in his farmhouse bathroom

BJP APPOINTS OBSERVERS TO SELECT 3 CMs

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

Setting in motion the formation of the next governments in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the BJP on Friday appointed central observers to elect the legislature party leaders, who will be the next chief ministers of the three states the saffron party wrested from the Congress in recent polls.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and tribal affairs minister Arjun Munda have been named as the central observers for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, respectively.

Former chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday underwent a successful total hip (left) replacement surgery, following a fall at his farmhouse late on Thursday night.

According to a health bulletin issued by Yashoda Hospital, where Rao was admitted and underwent the surgery, the former chief minister and BRS president "tolerated the surgery well and was stable haemodynamically throughout the procedure."

The hospital said that Rao had since been shifted to a room where he is recuperating.

He was receiving routine post-operative care,

including IV fluids, prophylactic antibiotics and pain medication.

His condition will be assessed on Saturday, the hospital said, adding that

the "usual course of recovery is expected to be six to eight weeks."

Page 3: C'garh reported to get OBC/Tribal CM

Horlicks Women's PLUS

Feeling frequent back discomfort?
It could be weak bones.

Horlicks Women's Plus improves bone strength in 6 months.

100% RDA OF CALCIUM AND VITAMIN D



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This contains Acesulfame Potassium. Not recommended for children, pregnant or lactating women.

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BATTING | GRAFT

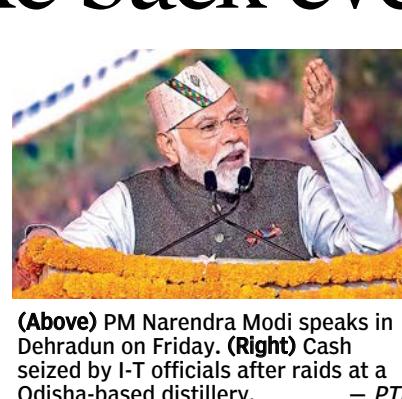
PM shares reports of ₹220 cr in cash seized from properties of Oppn MP

Will take back every looted penny: PM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

Taking a swipe at the Opposition on the issue of corruption, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said, "It is Modi's guarantee that they will have to return every penny looted from people."

Tagging a news report of the Income Tax department recovering ₹220 crores in cash from various locations of a business group allegedly linked to Congress MP from Jharkhand Dhiraj Prasad Sahu, the PM attacked the Opposition party. "Countrymen should



(Above) PM Narendra Modi speaks in Dehradun on Friday. (Right) Cash seized by I-T officials after raids at a Odisha-based distillery.



look at these piles of currency notes and then hear the addresses of its (Congress) leaders on hon-

esty," he said in a post with several emojis.

The news report also showed a picture of several

almirahs stuffed with currency notes. With the Lok Sabha elections approaching, Prime Minister Modi has turned up the heat on Opposition parties in his posts on X. He, in a recent post, had cited a news clip to take a swipe at Opposition leaders and their "ecosystem", saying they might remain happy with their arrogance, lies, pessimism and ignorance, but people should be beware of their divisive agenda as a 70-year-old habit which cannot go away so easily.

After the PM raised the issue, the BJP trained its

guns on the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Opposition alliance. The raids were launched against Boudh Distillery Private Limited on Wednesday were still continuing and cash amounting to more than ₹220 crore has so far been recovered.

The total recovery could be around ₹250 crore, sources said. Three dozen counting machines were deployed by the tax department officials. Since the machines are of a limited capacity, the counting is progressing at a slow pace, the sources added.

+



EVENTS TODAY

Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Festival of Music & Dance
Time: 6 pm
Venue: Ravindra Bharathi

Esthetique: Celebration of Indian dance and music
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Bhaskara Auditorium

Conscious Canvas: Mindfulness workshop
Time: 10 am
Venue: Our Scared Space

Life Mastery Summit
Time: 12 noon
Venue: KLN Prasad Auditorium

Tie Dye Workshop
Time: 1 pm
Venue: Heart Cup Coffee

Write Club Meet-up (Theme: Faded Prospects)
Time: 10.30 pm
Venue: Aaromale

REACH US AT
eventsatdc@gmail.com

SHORT TAKES



BADE GHULAM ALI KHAN FEST BEGINS TODAY IN CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Sangitanjaly Foundation, in collaboration with the department of language and culture is all set to present the 6th season of the Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan National Festival of Music at Dance at Ravindra Bharathi here on December 9 and 10.

The festival pays homage to the legendary Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, whose

death has his last days in the city. Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan's influence on Indian classical music, particularly the Patiala Gharana, is revered, and the festival aims to perpetuate his legacy. The event, dedicated to the memory of the maestro, also serves a noble cause, supporting children with autism at Autism Ashram.

With a line-up featuring eminent artists like Pt Aranyakumar, Pt Ken Zuckerman, Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, a Padma Shri awardee, Bithika Mistry, and Pt Ajay Chakrabarty, a Padma Bhushan awardee, the festival promises enchanting performances. The inaugural day will witness an inaugural concert Pt Ken Zuckerman, winner of the Sangitanjaly Ratna Lifetime Achievement Award 2023.

SEETHAKKA HELPS POLYTECH STUDENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Minister Danasari Anasuya, aka Seethakka, intervened to address the crisis of Government Polytechnic College students in Masab Tank.

The college had initially declared that students with less than 65 per cent attendance would be barred from appearing in the semester exams scheduled to commence on Monday and had withheld their hall tickets. A group of dejected students took their concerns to the Praja Darbar held at the Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan (formerly Pragathi Bhavan) on Friday morning. Minister Seethakka, on hearing of their plight, engaged with college authorities over the phone to deliberate on the matter. Following her intervention, the college management relaxed its rule and said students with over 50 per cent attendance would be allowed to sit for the exams.

This decision brings relief to approximately 1,250 students who were at risk of missing their exams due to the attendance criteria. Grateful for the minister's timely and effective intervention, students expressed their thanks, acknowledging the positive outcome of her swift actions.



Left: A large number of people throng the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Palana Bhavan with their grievances to meet Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on the first day of the Praja Darbar in Hyderabad on Friday. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy interacts with people and receives their applications. — R. PAVAN



Good response to Praja Bhavan move

People overjoyed at the dismantling of iron barricades, enter previously barred premises

FROM PAGE 1

A printed acknowledgement was given to the applicant along with SMS acknowledgement.

Officials had arranged 320 seats inside the Praja Darbar hall. Queue lines were set up outside. Drinking water and other facilities were provided to those who are waiting at the entrance and in the Praja Darbar hall.

People were overjoyed to see the dismantling of iron barricades at Pragathi Bhavan, the official camp office cum residence of Chief Minister that were set up during the BRS government. The dismantling of fencing also resolved traffic snarls as the fencing created a bottleneck on the busy Begumpet road. They hailed the decision of Revanth Reddy to rename Pragathi Bhavan as Praja Bhavan and keeping doors open for common people.

A significant number of physically challenged persons arrived at Praja Bhavan. Revanth Reddy paid special attention to them and instructed officials to resolve their issues on the spot. Their major complaints were BRS government cancelling their ration cards and rejecting their applications for 2BHK housing scheme.

A. Appa Rao, 60-year old physically challenged person from Yaprak, had suffered a spine injury in 2005 when he was working in a pharma company. The then Congress government had sanctioned him a ration card and pension.

"When BRS government came to power in 2014, it cancelled all old ration cards and sought fresh applications. I applied for fresh ration card in 2015 but it was not sanctioned. I am running around revenue and civil supplies offices for the last nine years. I tried to meet KCR several times in Pragathi Bhavan to bring my plight to his notice. But police officials did not allow me inside saying that there is no permission to enter the premises or meet CM. Now, I am happy to enter the premises, meet CM and handed over petition to him," he said.

"Our new CM issued instructions to officials on the spot to issue me ration card," said a beaming Appa Rao. A 70-year old tribal woman, Sukhya, who came all the way from Kandukur in Rangareddy district, said she was the victim of Dharani portal



Nagesh
Ramesh
Veeranna, wife
Satyanarayana

Turned away many times earlier, people meet CM

PINTO DEEPAK I DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

For Kummaru Satyanarayana, an unemployed physically challenged youth, Friday would be a red letter day. After waiting to meet the Chief Minister for years to submit a petition seeking a job, he got his moment when Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy threw open the gates of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Palana Bhavan, earlier known as Pragathi Bhavan, on Friday.

For Satyanarayana and many others like him, it was like opening the doors to a new future where their problems would be redressed and they could make a living.

Satyendarayana, who had come from Kamareddy district, told *Deccan Chronicle*: "I applied for jobs, but could not clear the recruitment test. I come from a farmer's family. I had met MLAs in the



Dog squad brought for security arrangements at the Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. — DC

past and even came to Pragathi Bhavan several times seeking help, but was not allowed inside." Chelalaha Nagesh from Banjara Hills said he had handed over his grievance to Revanth Reddy who had assured that he would get assistance. Nagesh was earlier doing some odd jobs and stopped working after he suffered a paralytic stroke. N. Veeranna, who came from

Wanaparthy district, said his wife could meet the CM and tell him of her grievances. "We have also submitted a detailed application to upload our land details on the Dharani portal," he said.

Wadapally Ramesh from Hayathnagar and his wife Anitha, contract teachers, were severely injured in a road accident which left them physically impaired.

as her one acre allotted by the previous Congress government was missing from the portal. "My land disappeared from the Dharani portal in 2019. A few BRS leaders took illegal possession of my land. I met all revenue officials right from VRO to district collector and submitted petitions. No one helped me. It tried to meet KCR several times in Pragathi Bhavan but there was no entry. Today, I am happy that I could enter this building, meet CM and submitted by representation. The CM received my complaint and gave me acknowledgement with a promise that the issue will be resolved once

Dharani will be abolished soon. At this age, I can't run around offices and officials and I am confident that CM Revanth Reddy will resolve my issue." People from districts submitted complaints on how BRS leaders misused Dalit Bandhu, BC Bandhu, Minority Bandhu schemes to benefit their party activists and supporters. Fareeduddin from Mahabubnagar complained to CM that BRS leaders sanctioned five 2BHK houses to members of the same family while denying them to genuine beneficiaries like him.

Revanth Reddy received petitions along with minis-



A large number of visitors with their applications at the Praja Bhavan on Friday. — DC

Housekeeping staff seek permanent employment

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Among the thousands who queued up for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's Praja Darbar on Sunday were around 40 women and men, who were a part of housekeeping team at the camp office complex that houses five buildings including the Chief Minister's residence and the residence and office used by the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajashekhar Reddy.

Renuka from Amberpet, urged Revanth Reddy to make their jobs permanent and increase their salary. They also submitted a representation to minister Danasari Anasuya alias Seethakka.

"We have been working

for a very long time, but there is no improvement in our salaries. Except for a free bus pass, we do not have any other benefits," said Renuka, whose husband is physically challenged and bedridden.

Lakshmi from Bhoiguda, who has been working for around nine years at the site, said that a major part of their salaries goes for house rent. "We appeal to the new CM to provide us housing," she said.

Madisetty Chakradhar, a native of Illendu, an electrician on the campus, said that they had requested for better working facilities and flexibility in timings. "Seethakka heard our grievances and assured that she would take them to the CM's notice and ensure that we have a resolution at the earliest," he added.

Revanth Reddy had earlier criticised Somesh Kumar

FROM PAGE 1



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had earlier attacked the lobby of officials including Somesh Kumar for allegedly colluding with the previous rulers and causing severe financial loss to the state exchequer. The Dharani portal, which the Congress has already announced it would scrap after coming to power, was the brainchild of Somesh Kumar.

Revanth Reddy, according to sources, would take up the reshuffle of bureaucracy after the Assembly session and allotment of portfolios to all the Cabinet ministers.

CM to flag-off 'Maha Lakshmi free bus' facility today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will flag-off the Maha Lakshmi free bus scheme for women and third gender persons at the State Assembly around 1.30 pm here on Saturday. The scheme will be applicable on city ordinary, express, metro express and Palle Velugu buses.

As regards interstate travel, the scheme will be applicable only up to the state borders.

After the party announced the Six Guarantees during the recent election campaign, women were curious about this particular facility.

Only women from



Women travelling in an RTC bus in Hyderabad on Friday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Telangana would be eligible to avail the service after furnishing valid identity cards to confirm their residence proof like Aadhaar card, driver licence or voter ID card.

They will be issued a 'zero ticket' in the bus. There is no distance limit on intra-state services.

Around 40 per cent of the 7,292 buses that are

utilised by women. The percentage may increase after the scheme gathers pace. The state government will reimburse the expenditure to TSRTC towards chargeable fares, which would have been collected on the basis of actual distance travelled by women passengers, officials said.

The facility would be streamlined once the travel pattern was analyzed. The State government will reimburse the expenditure to TSRTC towards chargeable fares, which would have been collected on the basis of actual distance travelled by women passengers, officials said.

Plans are afoot to get 1,050 new buses to meet the increase in passenger patronage, an official said. Women can board any permitted service at any time in as many as 7,292 buses being operated across the state.

The facility would be

streamlined once the travel pattern was analyzed. The State government will reimburse the expenditure to TSRTC towards chargeable fares, which would have been collected on the basis of actual distance travelled by women passengers, officials said.

TSRTC managing director V.C. Sajjanar on Friday goaded up the otherwise grand announcement of Maha Lakshmi free bus scheme for women, one of the Six Guarantees of the Congress that rode to power in the recently held Assembly elections.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will launch the scheme designed to allow women of all ages to travel free of cost in the state-run bus services including the city bus services.

However, the government order (GO) issued by Vani Prasad with guidelines for the scheme mentioned that free travel will be allowed in the inter-state express within state boundaries and Palle Velugu services. There was no mention of city services in which lakhs of women travel, causing several women to take to social media and raise doubts over the scheme. Later, addressing a press conference Sajjanar said the scheme was applicable to city ordinary, express and metro apart from Palle Velugu, also resulting in confusion.

When contacted, Sajjanar blamed it on the clerical mistake in the GO issued by the principal secretary. He was silent on whether the proposals sent from the corporation made a mention about city services.



TSRTC MD V.C. Sajjanar at a press meet on Friday. — DC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Transport principal secretary A. Vani Prasad and Telangana State Road Transport Corporation managing director V.C. Sajjanar on Friday goaded up the otherwise grand announcement of Maha Lakshmi free bus scheme for women, one of the Six Guarantees of the Congress that rode to power in the recently held Assembly elections.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will launch the scheme designed to allow women of all ages to travel free of cost in the



Not invited for meet: Prabhakar

FROM PAGE 1

Rao told mediapersons that he was not informed of the meeting and would have attended since it was being convened by the Chief Minister.

However, official sources said when CM held a high level review and all the officials except Rao attended, it displayed his intent. "The government will deal with it as per procedure," sources added.

Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari and energy special chief secretary Sunil Sharma also attended the meeting. Revanth Reddy is said to have focussed on uninterrupted power supply for the next six months particularly keeping in view the huge demand anticipated in the rabi season. The officials informed him of the debt burden running into ₹80,000 crore and Reddy asked finance special chief secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao to prepare a road map for resolving the payments issue.

He asked officials to chalk out modalities for 200 units of free electricity to house-

holds, a promise made by the Congress during the election campaign.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that the department was on verge of collapsing financially with over ₹51,000 crore pending power dues from consumers and from government departments apart from ₹81,000 crore loans secured from different agencies for power infrastructure development.

Sources said that Revanth Reddy assured the officials that the state government would reimburse the amount to be spent on 200 units of free power to households. Officials said the measure would cost ₹330 crore monthly. The modalities for giving free power to households would be prepared after gathering information from Karnataka, Punjab and Delhi where the state governments were giving free power to households.

Officials also explained the demand and supply of power in the state and added that the demand for power was reduced because of winter and the load demand is around 10,000 MW.

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy instructed health secretary S.A.M. Rizvi to visit the hospital and ensure that Rao received the best possible treatment and sought updates.

Rao's family, including wife Shobha, children K.T. Rama Rao, K. Kavitha and nephew T. Harish Rao were at the hospital. It is reported that Rao slipped and fell in the bathroom of his farmhouse after mid-



Doctors at Yashoda Hospital brief K.T. Rama Rao, and T. Harish Rao after the surgery.

night and was immediately brought by his family to the hospital where he was admitted. After assess-

● PM Narendra Modi tweeted "distressed to know that former Telangana CM KCR Garu has suffered an injury. I pray for his speedy recovery and good health."

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said she was "anguished" to know of the incident and pray for his early recovery and good health. Many others wished him a speedy recovery, including Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, his predecessor N. Chandrababu Naidu, Congress leader K. Jana Reddy and BRS leaders.

pray for his speedy recovery and good health."

Within seconds, the bus was empty. Moments later, fire engulfed the bus. Luggage and personal belongings of the passengers were destroyed. It is believed that a short circuit led to the fire.

BUS FIRE AVERTED IN SANGAREDDY: RTC DRIVER'S SWIFT ACTION SAVES LIVES

Hyderabad: A bus travelling from Hyderabad to Mumbai narrowly escaped disaster in the early hours of Friday thanks to the quick thinking of its driver, at Bhudera of Munipalli mandal in Sangareddy district.

Police said the driver noticed smoke emanating from the engine compartment, pulled over and alerted the passengers to evacuate immediately.

— INN



KCR slipped, fell in his bathroom

FROM PAGE 1

ment, the doctors decided to conduct the surgery on Friday afternoon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted "distressed to know that former Telangana CM KCR Garu has suffered an injury. I

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IN BRIEF



Jinnaram police seized 14 kg of the psychotropic drug along with equipment used for its manufacture, in Sangareddy on Friday.

14 kg nordiazepam seized, 4 held

Hyderabad: The TS Narcotic Bureau (TS NAB) along with Jinnaram police of Sangareddy district nabbed four persons who were manufacturing nordiazepam and seized 14 kg of the psychotropic drug along with equipment used for its manufacture, all worth ₹3 crore. They were caught when delivering the drug, said Sangareddy SP Ch Rupesh. The accused were identified as Mohammed Younus, Goundla Srinivas Goud, Krishnamgari Nirmal Goud and Pasupuleti Manikyala Rao. Police said

Youth was arrested by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in 2017, when he was manufacturing alprazolam, a psychotropic substance. After coming out on bail, he entered the real estate business and he came into contact with the other accused and started manufacturing nordiazepam. They set up a manufacturing unit at Kodakanchi village a year ago. Nordiazepam is used primarily in the treatment of anxiety disorders and has sedative properties.

BRS MEN RECEIVE THREAT CALLS, CASES BOOKED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Cases have been registered against unidentified persons at Malkajgiri, Neredmet and Alwal police stations, after BRS leaders complained of receiving threatening calls from some persons impersonating Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajashekhar Reddy.

Neredmet police station house officer A. Shiva Kumar said that K. Upender Reddy, husband of Neredmet corporator K. Meena, from the BRS lodged a complaint saying that they have been receiving threatening calls from the MLA's number. "Believing that the MLA was calling them when they answered the call, the callers threatened them," he said.

It looks like some crooks have spoofed the MLA's number and called them, Shiva Kumar added.

In Malkajgiri, former corporator Jagadishwar Goud received similar threatening calls, following which Malkajgiri police registered a case. A case was also registered at Alwal PS, after the local BRS leaders complained of similar threatening calls.

Police said they are verifying the details of the callers with the help of IT and cybercrime teams and will trace the callers soon.

Pending cases no bar for passports, says HC

Court hears plea on passport officer's decision

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR I DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

The Telangana High Court made it clear that pendency of criminal cases cannot be a ground to deny renewal or issue of a passport to an applicant.

The court opined that the right to personal liberty would include not only the right to travel abroad but also the right to possess a passport.

Justice Surepalli Nanda stated that as per Section 10 (d) of the Passports Act, a passport can be impounded only if the holder has

JUSTICE SUREPALLI
stated a passport can be impounded only if the holder has been convicted of an offence involving "moral turpitude" to imprisonment of not less than two years.

been convicted of an offence involving "moral turpitude" to imprisonment of not less than two years. If it was the situation of post-conviction, the pendency of a case/cases is not a ground to refuse, renewal or to demand the surrender of a passport, the court opined.

The judge was deal-

ing with a petition filed by Ravikanti Venkatesam from Mancherial challenging the decision of the regional passport officer in Hyderabad, who denied renewal or issue of a passport to him on the ground that a criminal case under section 420 IPC (cheating) was pending against him.

Considering the facts, Justice Nanda recalled that the apex court in 'Maneka Gandhi v Union of India,' and in 'Satish Chandra Verma v Union of India' very clearly observed that the right to travel abroad is a part of a personal liberty and

the right to possess a passport can only be curtailed in accordance with law and not on the subjective satisfaction of anyone. The procedure must also be just, fair and reasonable.

The High Court held that the passport authority cannot refuse renewal of the passport on the ground of pendency of the criminal cases and directed the passport authority to renew /issue the passport of the applicant without raising any objection relating to the pendency of the aforesaid criminal case.

COPS COLLECT TS STATEHOOD CASES DATA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

The Telangana police have started gathering information of the cases related to the statehood agitation pending across the state. It is widely rumoured that the government has sought these details to withdraw the cases registered against statehood activists.

On instructions from the DGP's office, the CID has begun the process of gathering the data. The CID has written to all commissioners and SPs asking them to furnish information regarding the persons who were arrested and sent to judicial remand from the period between December 9, 2009 and June 2, 2014.

CID officials said the process might take a few days and the information would be submitted to government. It may be recalled that a majority of cases registered against agitators during the separate statehood movement have already been withdrawn by previous government.

BALU PULIPALAI I DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

The Telangana forest department's weekly 'Catch The Trap' drive to locate and remove snares and traps laid in the forests to catch wildlife for poaching is yielding shocking results that are indicating the true extent of attempts to poach wild animals and birds in different parts of the state.

Just in the first week since the drive was launched on December 1, officials say they are stunned at the widespread use of such traps by people, particularly in fringe areas of the forests.

In the Gudur forest division of Manbubabu district, forest officials have found hundreds of such snares.

Pictures of the recoveries show a truck load of snares, and officials said when all the seized



Forest department staff get ready to haul a day's catch of wire snares found in the Mahabubabad forests. The snares are typically used to trap and catch wild boar, hares and herbivores such as deer.

traps and snares are sent to Hyderabad's Mahavir Harina Vanasthal deer park in Vanasthalipuram as planned, they could make a shockingly large pile. The wire snares found in Gudur forest division alone weigh some 400 kg, officials said.

Such is the extent of wildlife poaching and trapping that it is possible to 'place orders' in Warangal for wild animal meat, particularly that of wild boar,

which the poachers would then deliver. The snares discovered so far are typically used to trap wild boar, hares, and other herbivores such as deer, the officials said.

"Wildlife is one very neglected area in Telangana and this has only gotten worse in the last five years. We hope that with this drive, some focus is returned to protecting wildlife in the state," a senior department official said.

No HC relief for film director

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

The Telangana High Court upheld the trial court decision to continue trial proceedings against noted film director and screenwriter Koratala Siva under the Copyrights Act. This pertains to infringement of copy rights regarding the story and screenplay of the Mahesh Babu-starred 'Srimanthudu,' which was released in 2015.

He sought action against Siva, producer Yerineni Naveen and G. M. a h e s h b a b u Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

The trial court

lodged by the novelist R.D. Wilson alias Sarath Chandra, who claimed that the movie was based on his award-winning novel 'Chachentha Prema' which was published in a Telugu magazine in February 2012.

Aggrieved by the civil court's order of a criminal trial, Siva, Naveen and Maheshbabu entertainment approached the High Court in 2017 seeking that proceedings against them be quashed.

Meanwhile, the complainant also

approached the High Court for registration of criminal cases against them under sections 420 (cheating),

468(forgery), and 471 of IPC.

Justice K. Surender, after considering the facts, dismissed registration of criminal cases of cheating and forgery against Siva and others.

Further, the court

quashed trial court

proceedings against them. But, the court was not inclined to quash the proceedings against Siva, amid allegations of infringements of copy rights Act.

But, he was exempted from the proceedings of criminal conspiracy.

L. RAVICHANDER
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Justice N. Tukaramji of the Telangana High Court on Friday discharged 18 accused in the Bhongir sex trafficking case. The judge allowed revision petitions filed by the accused challenging an order of the assistant sessions court, Bhongir, which had earlier dismissed their application for discharge. The prosecution said that the petitioner was running a prostitution racket in her house at Ganeshnagar, Yadadri, and that she bought each girl for ₹40,000. It was also alleged that the petitioner was aware of the other members of Dommar community giving injections to expedite puberty of the girls and that the accused had an intention of rearing the minors for prostitution. It was the case of the accused that there was no material evidence in the chargesheet to establish any of the ingredients of alleged offences and an examination of

Section 164 statements of the girl does not reveal any complaint of sexual abuse, harassment or physical exploitation and instead presents a normal and healthy childhood and that at the time of the arrest and alleged rescue of the minors there was no other person such as brothel owner or a customer at the scene of offence.

It was contended by the

accused that there are no eyewitnesses, circumstantial witnesses or documentary facts that petitioner/accused was running a brothel, living off the earnings of prostitution or had procured, attempted to procure the children, or that the children were taken from place to place or caused or induced the children to carry on prostitution and that there is no medical evidence in the chargesheet that the child was subjected to sexual abuse. The judge after perusing the materials on record allowed the criminal revision and discharged the accused.

LEGAL STORIES

APPROACH CUSTOMS FOR GOLD: HC GIVES GHMC 4 WEEKS

Justice T. Vinod Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Friday directed GHMC to take a fresh look into an alleged illegal encroachment at H u m a y u n n a g a r, Mehdiyatnam, in the city. The judge was dealing with a contempt case filed by Mohd. Sajid Hussain Shujath Hussain, who alleged inaction on the part of the civic body and contended that it was willful disobedience of the order of the court. Earlier, the court had directed GHMC to consider his representations within six weeks and pass appropriate orders after giving due notice to the unofficial respondent, Syed Nayemuddin. The petitioner alleged that the private respondent had constructed a compound wall and a gate on a public road. The judge observed

application in accordance with law and directed the appropriate authority to consider it.

ENCROACHED ROAD: HC GIVES GHMC 4 WEEKS

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that this was shadow fighting between the parties. Since it involved public land, the GHMC was required to look into the matter and take necessary steps within four weeks.

HC QUESTIONS MHA ON WIDOW PENSION

Justice S. Nanda of the Telangana High Court required the Union ministry of home affairs to inform the court how the pension to a widow could be granted not from the date it was due but from the date of such application.

The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by Puchakayala Pushpa Veni complaining that the Union home ministry's freedom fighters division had to pay her pension for 51 months but had failed to do so. Her husband died in 2018, but her pension was sanctioned only from December 2022 when she had submitted her application.

The judge adjourned the matter for the Union government to respond.



+



MAN OUT ON BAIL IN MURDER CASE KILLS AGAIN, HELD

MOULI MAREEDU I DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

A 55-year-old man, jailed for the murder of a woman and released on bail recently, allegedly killed another woman and stole her cash and silver ornaments. Tandur police on Friday arrested Mala Kistappa, a resident of Alipur village of Rangareddy district.

Kistappa was accused of the murder of five other women but was acquitted with the reported police failure to provide adequate evidence to the court to support the charges.

His latest victim, Swarabi, 42, from Shanta Mahal in Tandur and a native of Karnataka, was a labourer. On November 29, she was waiting for a job in Tandur, when Kistappa hired her on pretext of giving work. He took her to a forest, killed her and stole silver ornaments and ₹1,000 from the victim.

When she did not return, her husband Mohammed lodged a complaint. Upon verifying CCTV footage, police spotted Kistappa talking to Swarabi, and arrested him. Kistappa reportedly confessed to the murder and theft. Police said that was Kistappa's method of operation and accused him of similarly killing and robbing six other women, three in Vikarabad, and one each in Yalal, Dharur and Tandur.

FARMER INJURED IN LEOPARD ATTACK IN KAMAREDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, DEC. 8

A leopard attacked on farmer at Barangedgi village in Birkur mandal of Kamareddy district on Friday.

The incident occurred when the victim Vadla Vijay Kumar was working in his agriculture field on the banks of River Manjeera.

Following the attack of the animal, the farmer shouted for help. This drew the attention of farmers working nearby who rushed to the spot, chased away the leopard and rescued Kumar.

He was shifted to the government area hospital in Banswada with bleeding injuries.

Forest and police officials have been informed of the incident.

SHRADHANJALI



Mrs. KARADI VIJAYA LAXMI BSNL
W/o. K.S. ASHOK KUMAR
DOB: 07/03/1951 DOD: 30/11/2023

As this tough emotional time prevails, we would be honored to have your presence along with the support to our Karadi families, as we gather for 10th day ceremony to mourn & celebrate the life of my Spouse Late Karadi Vijaya Laxmi Date: 09 Dec 2023 Time: 7pm Venue: Gautam Nagar Welfare Association Hall, Gautam Nagar, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad 9440000492 / 8095665522

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



MS. THAMMADI REBEKAH PREMILATA
(Retd. Principal, St. George's Degree College for Women, Abids)
D.O.B: 14-10-1949 D.O.D: 09-12-2022
D/o Late: T.P. Sadanandam (Retd. Principal, Wesley Junior College)

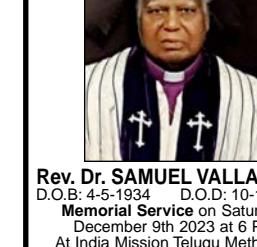
The memories that you have left behind will remain in our hearts forever.

Inserted by: Family Members

Contact: 933144498

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have remained faithful. 2 Timothy 4:7

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Rev. Dr. SAMUEL VALLABDAS
D.O.B: 4-5-1934 D.O.D: 10-12-2022

Memorial Service on Saturday, December 9th 2023 at 6 PM At India Mission, Telugu Methodist Church, 1049 S Euclid Ave., Oak Park, IL 60304 U.S.A.

Inserted By: Telugu Christians of Chicago, U.S.A.

(S2324/D00848)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

Helen Victor

W/o late Victor George Anandam
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IN BRIEF

Dharani portal: Case against two

Hyderabad: The Adibatla police on Friday registered cases against two outsourcing computer operators of the Rangareddy collectorate for allegedly misusing the Dharani portal, allegedly uploading and deleting data.

No one has been arrested.

Adibatla inspector P. Raghuveer Reddy said that the collectorate administration officer Praemeela Rani lodged a complaint alleging that some data was misused from the portal by the duo. The collectorate staff initiated an inquiry and after securing a report approached police. The inspector said police initiated a probe.

ROSE RECEIVES TWO PLAINTS AT PRAJA DARBAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner Ronald Rose for the first time received two complaints related to illegal constructions at the Praja Darbar held at Praja Bhavan under the aegis of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday. "We are yet to receive all the complaints related to GHMC which were submitted at the Praja Darbar," said a senior official from the civic body.

Earlier, complaints related to illegal constructions used to be raised at Prajavani, a programme held in GHMC head office on Mondays to redress citizens' grievances.

During Prajavani, the GHMC commissioner in the presence of the heads of Departments of all wings of the corporation used to hear grievances of people. It was abandoned citing Covid-19 restrictions since March 2020 and was not resumed.

OVER 100 FROM TELUGU STATES CLEAR CIVIL MAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

Over 100 candidates from the Telugu states have cleared the recently held Civil Services Main Examination 2023. Nationally, 2,844 aspirants have successfully moved on to the personality test, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from January.

Of these, approximately 1,011 candidates are likely to secure positions in all India services including the prestigious IAS, IPS and IFS. Over 5.5 lakh aspirants nationwide took the preliminary test in May 2023, including about 50,000 candidates from Hyderabad and Warangal. It is estimated that around 29,000 candidates from these regions actually appeared for the examination.

Nationally, 14,624 individuals were deemed qualified for the Main Examination, which took place from September 15th to 24, 2023.

Given the highly competitive nature of the selection process, the margin for qualifying is said to be narrow. Emphasising the importance of meticulous preparation, a director of a coaching institute in the city remarked, "All aspirants who have qualified would be in a very narrow range. Needless to say, every mark counts at the personality test. Aspirants who have qualified should focus on the presentation of their answers to the expected questions. Practice is the key to success."

The head of another coaching institute said that the results this year showed one of the highest numbers of qualifiers since the past few years.

Precarious financial crisis haunts GHMC

Corporation shells out ₹1.3 cr towards interest every day

**NABINDER
BOMMALA | DC**
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

With the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) shells out ₹1.3 crore towards interest every day for the loans taken earlier, the grim reality is that the financial condition of the corporation is likely to worsen further in the days ahead. A reason for this is the repayment of the loan taken for executing the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP), the quarterly repayment of which is scheduled to begin next month.

Under SRDP, the BRS state government had built a series of flyovers, underpasses, roads underbridges and roads overbridges and a cable bridge over Durgam Cheruvu, among several other infrastructure

UPHILL TASK

- **THE STATE** government had in 2017 accorded permission to GHMC to borrow ₹1,000 crore through bonds and ₹2,500 crore through Rupees Term Loan (RTL) to execute SRDP projects.
- **WHILE THE** coupon rate (the rate of interest paid by bond issuers) varies from 8.90% to 10.23%, the rate of interest for RTL varies from 7.20% to 8.65%.
- **THE OTHER** major loans that have been availed include ₹1,500 crore for the comprehensive road maintenance programme (CRMP).

projects. The state government had in 2017 accorded permission to GHMC to borrow ₹1,000 crore through bonds and ₹2,500 crore through Rupees Term Loan (RTL) to execute SRDP projects. While the coupon rate (the rate of interest paid by bond issuers) varies from 8.90% to

10.23%, the rate of interest for RTL varies from 7.20% to 8.65%. The other major loans that have been availed include ₹1,500 crore for the comprehensive road maintenance programme (CRMP). This was taken to restore the entire network of 811 km main roads within the

GHMC limits. An additional ₹500 crore was borrowed for construction of dwelling units under the 2BHK housing scheme.

"A loan was availed even to execute SNDP works," said a GHMC official.

The Assembly election further dented GHMC coffers as many of its staffers were on election duty. The major sources of income for the civic body are property tax collection and issue of building permits. However, due to election duty, bill collectors could not focus on collection of property tax arrears.

"A staggering ₹7,000 crore property tax is due to the GHMC from buildings owned by the state and central governments. Earlier, even Pragathi Bhavan was in the defaulters list," pointed out an official from the corporation.

**Christmas buzz**

Decoration items such as Christmas trees, stars, Santa Claus, snowflakes, crib sets, bunting among others are put for sale ahead of Christmas at a store in Hyderabad, on Friday.

— K. DURGA RAO

Medigadda pier mishap: Congress leader files PIL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

financial institutions.

Niranjan, who is senior vice-president of the TPCC and chairman of the party's election coordination committee, also requested the court to direct the Union ministry of Jal Shakti, the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), the National Disaster Management Authority to take action on his complaints against the alleged fraud in the construction of the KLIS.

He said in the PIL that the NDSA had also faulted the quality and design of the Medigadda barrage, after its inspection following the sinking of pillars.

No action was initiated yet, he said and asked the High Court to direct the registration of a criminal case as per Section 41 (b) of Chapter X of the Dam Safety Act 2021.

He said major damage occurred to the Medigadda barrage as some of pillars sank

into the sand due to the failure of the then state government. He noted that a six-member NDSA committee led by member (disaster & resilience), had conducted field inspections at the site between October 23 and 25.

He said that the committee in its report had said that the barrage under the present condition was useless until fully rehabilitated.

The committee said there appear to be many areas where compliance with DSA 2021 provisions were found missing, according to Niranjan.

"This is a serious matter as the barrage has a high risk potential for life and the economy," the PIL said.

Niranjan said that according to the National Dam Safety Authority report, the dam owners had not inspected or maintained the cement concrete blocks or launching aprons since the commissioning of the barrage in 2019-20.

Dangerous for kids in treating fever, say doctors**Health alert on painkiller Meftal**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission's alert on the commonly used painkiller Meftal should be taken seriously and drug should be consumed only under medical advice and supervision.

The IPC on Thursday issued an alert about the drug with mafenamic acid as the primary ingredient which is commonly used to treat menstrual cramps and rheumatoid arthritis, saying it could produce some serious adverse reactions including Drug Rash

WHAT IS DRESS SYNDROME?

- **DRESS** (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms) syndrome caused by certain medications can result in severe allergic reactions.
- **HEALTHCARE** professionals and patients are advised to be vigilant for signs of DRESS syndrome and other adverse drug reactions.



es, can lead to seizures and induce vomiting in children. But there is no regulation, no studies on how this is prescribed and used in children. It is very common to see the combination drug being prescribed callously saying it should be taken thrice a day.

She said what makes it even worse is that Meftagesic, though to be sold only through a doctor's prescription, "just like many other restricted drugs, it is sold freely as over the counter medicine. Prolonged use can even result in gastritis and kidney damage," she said.

with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS).

According to Dr Shivarajan Santosh, a senior paediatrician, while Meftal is commonly prescribed to women to provide relief from menstrual cramps, and for arthritis,

the real danger "in this part of the country is in the drug's abuse among children. It is most widely prescribed to control fever in children under 14 years of age as Meftagesic, a combination with paracetamol. This combination, as the cumulative dosage increas-

Report: Hyd to see an extra of 35-38 mn sqft biz parks

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

development facilities, and regional headquarters.

Also, Hyderabad is expected to experience the launch of more than 1.3 lakh residential units in three years. The expansion of the technology sector and industrialisation in Hyderabad has led to a predominant concentration of residential development in the western part of the city. Now, northern, eastern, and southern parts of Hyderabad's will attract mid-segment home

buyers. The escalating demand for office space has led to a surge in supply, particularly along the city's IT corridor. Consequently, the city's investment-grade office stock surpassed 100 million sq. ft in 2022 and crossed 119 million sq. ft by the end of the July-September quarter, a significant increase of 63% from 73 million sq. ft stock in 2019. Hyderabad stood among the top 3 cities dominating office space leasing.

GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH				
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Department, Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)				
Email Id: ceproc.encrwd.bpi@nic.in, Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406 N.I.T. No. 1039/2023-24/E-In-Ce-tendering Bhopal, Dated 04.12.2023				
Bids for following works are invited on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 22-12-2023, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.				
S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1	2023_WRD_317897	On Turn Key Basis:- Construction of Machhrewa Irrigation Project Dam and Pressurized pipe irrigation network, as per details in scope of work but not limited to that.	Chhindwara	46139.72

G-21334/23
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Procurement)

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SIDDIPET (SIDDIPET DISTRICT) "e"Procurement Tender Notice				
e-Procurement NIT No.: E1/2434/2023, E1/2434/1/2023, E1/2434/2/2023, E1/2434/3/2023, E1/2434/4/2023, E1/2434/5/2023 Dt: 06-12-2023; Total No. of Works: DMFT Funds - 05 Works, CDP Funds - 01 Works, General Building Works; Bid Submission Start Date and Time: 07-12-2023 @ 9:00 PM; Bid Submission Closing Date and Time: 14-12-2023 @ 3:00 PM.				
Tendering Details: Bidding @ e-procurement market place i.e., http://tender.telangana.gov.in Phone and Fax No. 08457 - 222440, 950507243 Ro. No.: 8517-PP/CL/Advt/1/2023-24 Sd/- Commissioner Siddipet Municipality				
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA O/o Commissioner of Commercial Taxes C.T. Complex, MJ Road, Nampally, Telangana State, Hyderabad - 500 001. TENDER CALL FOR RATE CONTRACT FOR AMARON BATTERIES				

1. Department: Central Computer Wing, O/o Commissioner (C.T.), Telangana State; 2. Subject: Supply of Amaron Batteries on buyback policy for UPS in CTI offices spread across the State of Telangana for One Year; 3. Bid Document No. Rs. 5,000/- Non Refundable; 4. Bid Submission Date: 11-12-2023; 5. Last date for seeking clarification on Bid document (Pre-Bid Clarification): 16-12-2023 at 5:00 PM; 7. Bid Closing Date/Time: 18-12-2023 at 2:00 PM; 8. Bid Opening Date/Time: 18-12-2023 at 3:00 PM; 9. CCT Contact person: S/o Gopal Reddy, CCT, CCW, O/o CCT, Hyderabad, Telangana, India; 10. Email to: cct.gopalreddy@tgct.gov.in . If your firm is interested in participation, please ask the contact person for details or visit our website at http://www.tgct.gov.in view under Tender. The bid document fee is payable only when you indent full copy of the bid document from contact person. The payment i.e., Demand Draft should be made in the name of Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Telangana State.
Sd/- Commissioner (CT) O/o Commissioner of Commercial Taxes C.T. Complex, MJ Road, Nampally, Telangana State, Hyderabad - 500 001. Ro. No: 8495-PP/CL/Advt/1/2023-24

ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ISO 9001:2008 Certified) Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, Telangana, India <a href="https://na
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SHORT TAKE
OFFICIALS GET INFO ON 2BHKS AT JODEGHAT

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, DEC. 8

On instructions from Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, officials have collected information about the progress of construction of the 2BHks at historical Jodeghat.

Details have also been collected by them about the road connectivity, education and health facilities and other basic amenities in the village in Kerameri mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.

Collector Hemant Bhorkhade visited Jodeghat and had an interaction with the village elders and officials. He inquired with them about the status of construction of the 2BHks as on December 7.

Officials collected information about how many 2BHK were sanctioned and how many were completed and how many were yet to be completed. A report would be submitted to state chief secretary in these respects. Meanwhile, Adilabad collector Rahul Raj visited the Indravelli memorial and paid tributes to martyrs.

NSP deadlock continues as AP barricades remain

Friday's crucial KRMB meet deferred on TS plea

M. SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

TROUBLED WATERS

● Officials from AP irrigation department took control of the project from gate 13 to 26 and started drawing water in the name of meeting their state's drinking water requirements.

● AP officials are constantly monitoring the situation from the project site despite the presence of a battalion of CRPF on either side of the project.



● As AP officials refused to heed to their pleas, officials from Telangana are relying on the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) to resolve the issue amicably and ensure that status quo is maintained at NSP.

Officials from AP irrigation department took control of the project from gate 13 to 26 and started drawing water in the name of meeting their state's drinking water requirements. They stopped it on December 2.

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Officials from AP irrigation department took control of the project from gate 13 to 26 and started drawing water in the name of meeting their state's drinking water requirements. They stopped it on December 2.

Jawahar Reddy, respectively, to review the situation on Friday but it was postponed following a request from Telangana that it be rescheduled for next month.

On their part, KRMB officials are maintaining a constant vigil at NSP. Sources said AP had drawn 3,600 cusecs of water every day from November 30 to December 2.

BRS MLAs-elect to meet at TS Bhavan

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 8

All eyes will be on the BRS on Saturday morning as its MLAs-elect meet at Telangana Bhavan, the party headquarters, to elect their Assembly floor leader.

Saturday's BRS meeting will, however, not have the presence of party president and former chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao who was hospitalised late on Thursday night with a broken hip and underwent a hip replacement surgery at a private hospital on Friday.

Chandrashekhar Rao, who has been advised rest for at least six to eight weeks and is expected to stay away

DECISIVE MEETING

● **SPECULATION** is rife as who would be the BRS Legislature Party leader, with the names of the party's working president K.T. Rama Rao and even party leader Kadiam Srihari doing the rounds.

● **WITH KCR** expected to be away for two months or so, party sources said there could be a chance that someone else, likely KTR could be elected as BRSLP leader.



● **IT IS** expected that the newly elected and re-elected party legislators could insist on Chandrashekhar Rao as their leader in the Assembly and also as Leader of the Opposition.

from Assembly proceedings during this period.

While speculation was rife on who would be the BRS Legislature Party leader, with the names of the party's working presi-

dent K.T. Rama Rao, and even party leader Kadiam Srihari doing the rounds, it is expected that the newly elected, and re-elected, party legislators could insist on Chandrashekhar

Rao as their leader in the Assembly, and also as Leader of the Opposition. Between 2014 and 2023, as Chief Minister, Chandrashekhar Rao was also the leader of his party in the Legislature.

However, with Chandrashekhar Rao expected to be away for two months or so, party sources said there could be a chance that someone else, likely Rama Rao, could be elected as BRSLP leader.

The party could also spring a surprise electing someone from outside the Chandrashekhar Rao family as its leader in the Assembly, though the chances of this occurring are remote, party sources

said. If this does happen, it would not be the first time that someone who is not from Chandrashekhar Rao's family will head the party in the Assembly. In 2004, it was led by G. Vijaya Rama Rao and later, from 2009, it was led by Etala Rajendar who is now with the BJP.

The BRS, which won in 39 seats, will be the principal Opposition party with the second largest seat share after the Congress which won 64 seats.

The third largest party will be the BJP with eight, and the AIMIM following it with seven MLAs.

The lone MLA from CPI who won the election did so in alliance with the Congress.

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10000 SFT Ground + floors commercial building for sale @Kamplur Colony. 40'50 ft. 100% clear title. Contact: 3100154036. (W/2324/AT00769)

COMMERCIAL SPACE (36 Units) 1200 sft for Sale with Rental Agreement at D-Mart Side Komally. Ramesh Reddy Contact: 8121228800 (HYMM/2324/C02092)

✓ PRIME PROPERTY 850 Sqft North East Facing Ground Floor Commercial Space For Sale At Padmaraoorner Main Road 100'feet with washroom 24hours water supply, Car parking, Front Open Space Currently On Rent: 78.00PM. Price: 1.85Cr Ph:9676655234 (HYMM/2324/C02111)

1-4-160/C 125 Sq.Yds at Pan Bazar, commercial area, Ground + 4 floors, 5625 Sft, constructed. Contact Sanjaya Kansara, Cll: 9246521974. (S/2324/C02133)

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✓ 30YEAR OLD renovated 2BHK Flat for North facing first floor 1400 sqft Archana apartments Birla Mandir exit lane 6th building on left. Contemporary modern fully renovated. WhatsApp USA 480267257, 9396669980. (HYMM/2324/C02110)

2 BHK with car parking for sale in Gated Community at Splendour Apartments, Mettakangudem, Gajalaram, Hyderabad. Rs.45,00,000/- Contact: 7780658659, 9885073880. (S/2324/C02144)

THREE & MORE

3DHK FLATS 1450 sft Ready for Occupation beside Bhavan's Sainikpuri, 3km from Ecl, Makkajiri & Alwal Walkable Distance from Neredmet-X Roads, Cont:9248119922, 9573331203 (HYMM/2324/C07672)

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NAGARJUNA NAGAR - Sri Nagar colony commercial property 3BHK 1850 sqft perfect vastu, ventilation, car parking, lift, 2mts walking distance to metro and main road, 100'feet open ground. Contact: 9873424467, (HYMM/2324/C02120)

✓ NANDAGIRIHILLS JUBILEEHILLS with Luxury interiors, ready to occupy 4BHK, East facing, 3225 Sft. 4 car parking, high profit apartment. Contact: 9849241444, 8801122222. (S/2324/C00173)

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LUXURIOUS 4 BHK flat for sale in 3150 sft UDS situated in Icon Towers, Sri Bagh Colony, behind Minerva Cafe & Beside Google Office at Kondapur. Contact: 9885228592, 9704822407. (S/2324/C02148)

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THREE & MORE

INDEPENDENT HOUSE for Sale at Centro Point, Tsalibund, Secunderabad, 2nd lane to the main road and lane beside Sub Registrar Office. Area 238 Sq.Yards, Ground & First Floor. Contact: 9701234358. (S/2324/C02147)

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PLOTS

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181,323 SQ.YARDS HMDA Approved Layout West facing plot in Athwly Village. In "Revere Avenue" Medchal Villag! Contact: 9705700000. Price: 35k per square yard. (HYMM/2324/C07773)

✓ JUBILEE HILLS, Road-11, Near SBI ATM, Kids School: Rent for Residential /BPO /Office.. Very Large Flat 3BHK 4BHK 4.5BHK 5BHK 6BHK 7BHK 8BHK 9BHK 10BHK 11BHK 12BHK 13BHK 14BHK 15BHK 16BHK 17BHK 18BHK 19BHK 20BHK 21BHK 22BHK 23BHK 24BHK 25BHK 26BHK 27BHK 28BHK 29BHK 30BHK 31BHK 32BHK 33BHK 34BHK 35BHK 36BHK 37BHK 38BHK 39BHK 40BHK 41BHK 42BHK 43BHK 44BHK 45BHK 46BHK 47BHK 48BHK 49BHK 50BHK 51BHK 52BHK 53BHK 54BHK 55BHK 56BHK 57BHK 58BHK 59BHK 60BHK 61BHK 62BHK 63BHK 64BHK 65BHK 66BHK 67BHK 68BHK 69BHK 70BHK 71BHK 72BHK 73BHK 74BHK 75BHK 76BHK 77BHK 78BHK 79BHK 80BHK 81BHK 82BHK 83BHK 84BHK 85BHK 86BHK 87BHK 88BHK 89BHK 90BHK 91BHK 92BHK 93BHK 94BHK 95BHK 96BHK 97BHK 98BHK 99BHK 100BHK 101BHK 102BHK 103BHK 104BHK 105BHK 106BHK 107BHK 108BHK 109BHK 110BHK 111BHK 112BHK 113BHK 114BHK 115BHK 116BHK 117BHK 118BHK 119BHK 120BHK 121BHK 122BHK 123BHK 124BHK 125BHK 126BHK 127BHK 128BHK 129BHK 130BHK 131BHK 132BHK 133BHK 134BHK 135BHK 136BHK 137BHK 138BHK 139BHK 140BHK 141BHK 142BHK 143BHK 144BHK 145BHK 146BHK 147BHK 148BHK 149BHK 150BHK 151BHK 152BHK 153BHK 154BHK 155BHK 156BHK 157BHK 158BHK 159BHK 160BHK 161BHK 162BHK 163BHK 164BHK 165BHK 166BHK 167BHK 168BHK 169BHK 170BHK 171BHK 172BHK 173BHK 174BHK 175BHK 176BHK 177BHK 178BHK 179BHK 180BHK 181BHK 182BHK 183BHK 184BHK 185BHK 186BHK 187BHK 188BHK 189BHK 190BHK 191BHK 192BHK 193BHK 194BHK 195BHK 196BHK 197BHK 198BHK 199BHK 200BHK 201BHK 202BHK 203BHK 204BHK 205BHK 206BHK 207BHK 208BHK 209BHK 210BHK 211BHK 212BHK 213BHK 214BHK 215BHK 216BHK 217BHK 218BHK 219BHK 220BHK 221BHK 222BHK 223BHK 224BHK 225BHK 226BHK 227BHK 228BHK 229BHK 230BHK 231BHK 232BHK 233BHK 234BHK 235BHK 236BHK 237BHK 238BHK 239BHK 240BHK 241BHK 242BHK 243BHK 244BHK 245BHK 246BHK 247BHK 248BHK 249BHK 250BHK 251BHK 252BHK 253BHK 254BHK 255BHK 256BHK 257BHK 258BHK 259BHK 260BHK 261BHK 262BHK 263BHK 264BHK 265BHK 266BHK 267BHK 268BHK 269BHK 270BHK 271BHK 272BHK 273BHK 274BHK 275BHK 276BHK 277BHK 278BHK 279BHK 280BHK 281BHK 282BHK 283BHK 284BHK 285BHK 286BHK 287BHK 288BHK 289BHK 290BHK 291BHK 292BHK 293BHK 294BHK 295BHK 296BHK 297BHK 298BHK 299BHK 300BHK 301BHK 302BHK 303BHK 304BHK 305BHK 306BHK 307BHK 308BHK 309BHK 310BHK 311BHK 312BHK 313BHK 314BHK 315BHK 316BHK 317BHK 318BHK 319BHK 320BHK 321BHK 322BHK 323BHK 324BHK 325BHK 326BHK 327BHK 328BHK 329BHK 330BHK 331BHK 332BHK 333BHK 334BHK 335BHK 336BHK 337BHK 338BHK 339BHK 340BHK 341BHK 342BHK 343BHK 344BHK 345BHK 346BHK 347BHK 348BHK 349BHK 350BHK 351BHK 352BHK 353BHK 354BHK 355BHK 356BHK 357BHK 358BHK 359BHK 360BHK 361BHK 362BHK 363BHK 364BHK 365BHK 366BHK 367BHK 368BHK 369BHK 370BHK 371BHK 372BHK 373BHK 374BHK 375BHK 376BHK 377BHK 378BHK 379BHK 380BHK 381BHK 382BHK 383BHK 384BHK 385BHK 386BHK 387BHK 388BHK 389BHK 390BHK 391BHK 392BHK 393BHK 394BHK 395BHK 396BHK 397BHK 398BHK 399BHK 400BHK 401BHK 402BHK 403BHK 404BHK 405BHK 406BHK 407BHK 408BHK 409BHK 410BHK 411BHK 412BHK 413BHK 414BHK 415BHK 416BHK 417BHK 418BHK 419BHK 420BHK 421BHK 422BHK 423BHK 424BHK 425BHK 426BHK 427BHK 428BHK 429BHK 430BHK 431BHK 432BHK 4

SHORT TAKES

INDIA CONVEYED ITS CONCERN TO CANADA

New Delhi, Dec. 8: In calling for India's cooperation into its allegations of a potential Indian link to the killing of a Khalistani leader on its soil, Canada has not provided any "specific and relevant information" to New Delhi for it to act upon, the government informed Parliament on Friday.

Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said in Lok Sabha that the government has conveyed to Canada its "concerns" over activities of anti-India elements in that country and requested Ottawa to take action against such elements besides denying space to them.

2 BANKERS HELD FOR ₹3.3 CRORE FRAUD IN CUTTACK

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 8

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha police's crime branch department on Friday arrested two former officers, including the branch manager of Central Bank of India, Bhadreswar in Cuttack, in connection with an ₹3.3-crore bank fraud case.

The accused were identified as ex-branch manager Dambarudhar Nayak and ex-agricultural finance officer Devdutta Panigrahy.

Both Nayak and Panigrahy were arrested from Keonjhar and Bhubaneswar, respectively on December 7. EOW officials informed on Friday.

Both of the former officials arrested based on the complaint filed by Anadi Biswas, the Regional Head of Central Bank of India, Bhubaneswar.

MALIK NOT YET PART OF MAHA YUTI: AJIT PAWAR

PRASAD PATIL | DC
MUMBAI, DEC. 8

The Nawab Malik issue continued to cast a shadow on Maharashtra's ruling alliance 'Maha Yuti' even on Friday.

A day after BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis objected to Malik joining the ruling side, chief minister Eknath Shinde said that his party is in total agreement with Fadnavis's view.

The Ajit Pawar faction also denied that the tainted former minister has joined their ranks. Ajit Pawar said he will clear his stand only after Malik decides on his own political future.

"I have received a letter from Fadnavis and I will take appropriate action on it," Pawar said without specifying whether he would respond to the BJP leader's letter or not.

7 DEAD AS FIRE BREAKS OUT AT CANDLE FACTORY

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, DEC. 8

At least seven people died and several women workers were injured in a major fire that broke out in a candle-making factory on Friday in Pimpri-Chinchwad city in Maharashtra. The fire broke out in a factory situated inside the compound of the Rana Engineering near Jyotibhanagar, Talawade, at about 3 pm. The fire spread fast owing to the inflammable material stored in the compound. The fire brigade received the distress call around 2.45 pm, prompting swift action.

Eight people have also been injured and they have been shifted to Yashwantrao Chavhan Memorial Hospital.

INDIAN NAVY SHORT OF 10,896 PERSONNEL: GOVT

New Delhi, Dec. 8: The Indian Navy is reeling under a shortage of 10,896 personnel including 1,777 officers, according to details provided by the defence ministry in Parliament on Friday.

Responding to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt also said 9,119 posts of sailors are lying vacant in the Navy as on October 31. He said the shortage in the officer-rank is 1,777.

The sanctioned strength of officers and sailors in the Navy is 11,979 and 76,649.

Bhatt said a total of 323 officers were recruited in 2021 while the number in 2022 was 336.

Moitra got no chance: Didi

Accuses BJP of unleashing political vendetta, injustice against TMC MP

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, DEC. 8

Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee condemned her party MP Mahua Moitra's expulsion from the House on Friday following the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee's recommendation over her role in the 'cash for query' scandal and wrote to BJP.

Calling the step "unconstitutional and unacceptable," a "shocked" West Bengal accused the ruling party at the Centre of unleashing "political vendetta and injustice" to make a female parliamentarian of young generation a "victim of circumstances."

She alleged in Darjeeling, "I am sad and shocked to see the attitude of the BJP. They didn't give Moitra a chance to defend herself and removed her by voice votes of their party MPs in majority within half-an-hour of laying a 495-page report in the House."

Expressing her anguish, the TMC chief added, "I wonder how can someone finish reading so many pages so fast? The MPs of I.N.D.I.A. partners repeatedly asked for time to read the report.

"The 17th Lok Sabha has indeed been historic. It is the House that saw the passage of the wom-

OPPOSITION SLAMS MOITRA'S EXPULSION

CONGRESS MP

Karti Chidambaram uses the analogy of Sri Lankan cricketer Angelo Mathews' timed-out dismissal in the recently-held cricket World Cup while slamming the government over the expulsion of Mahua Moitra.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

walk out of Lok Sabha as House votes to expel TMC MP Mahua Moitra for 'unethical conduct.'



TMC leader Mahua Moitra with other opposition leaders after being expelled by the Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

SPEAKER OM

Birla accepts the resignation of BJP MPs Baba Balaknath and Renuka Singh.

PIYUSH GOYAL AND ASHWINI VAISHNAV

demand Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar take action against members who make false allegations in the garb of asking questions.

FROM PAGE 1

en's reservation rescheduling bill, but it has presided over the most tenacious witch hunt of one of 78 women MPs, a first-timer, a single woman with no political lineage, from a far-flung constituency on the Bangladesh border," Moitra said.

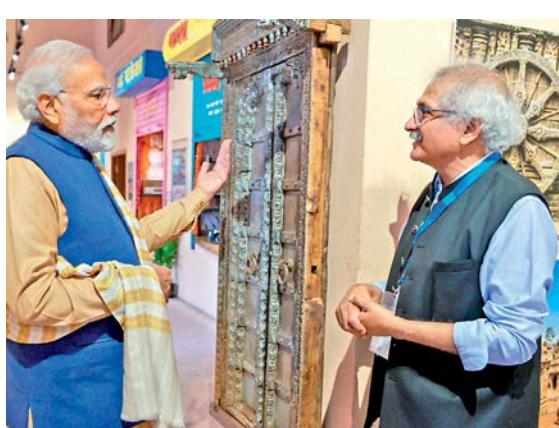
She said that the ethics committee report has broken every rule in the

book. "In essence, you are finding me guilty of breaking a code of ethics which does not exist. The committee is punishing me for engaging in a practice that is routine, accepted and encouraged in the House, she said.

She mentioned that the two testimonies that have been used to "hang" her are polar opposites.

Panel broke all rules: Moitra

FROM PAGE 1



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the first Indian Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 at Red Fort in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

Golden future awaits youth in India: Shah

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

Union home minister Amit Shah said on Friday that India's time has arrived and it is for the youth to spearhead the country's transformation as it emerges as a global leader.

Speaking at the 69th national conference of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the student wing of the RSS, in Burari here, he said the youth are the backbone of the country and it is their strength which takes the country and society to its peak. "This is India's time and the work of taking this transformation forward has to be

done by the youth," the minister said.

He said a golden future awaits the country's youth as corruption, nepotism and casteism have been replaced with growth and development in the last 10 years under the Narendra Modi government.

"This is India's time. Today the world is looking towards India with hope for the solution to every problem. It is up to you, the youth, to lead this change," he said.

Addressing the student leaders, Shah said the true sense of education is to contribute to individual development alongside the country's development.

C'garh likely to get OBC, tribal CM

FROM PAGE 1

Gautam will be central observers for Chhattisgarh, along with Mundra. In MP, where the BJP scored its biggest victory among the three states with a two-thirds majority, incumbent chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's stake has gone up with the win, but there is a view that the party leadership is looking at a leadership change after his 18 years of power, except for 15 months after the 2018 polls.

Speculation is rife that the BJP top brass could name an OBC or a tribal leader as the next chief minister in Chhattisgarh.

YATNAL'S INTENT WAS TO TARGET MODI: SIDDHA

DC CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU, DEC. 8

The controversy surrounding BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal's allegations against Tanveer Peera (Tanveer Hashmi) has taken a new turn, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah suggesting a different motive behind the accusations.

CM Siddaramaiah, in a detailed X (formerly Twitter) post on Friday, asserted that Yatnal's intent may be to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah.

Addressing the student leaders, Shah said the true sense of education is to contribute to individual development alongside the country's development.

Collegium system requires reforms: Lawyer

I am servant of law: CJI

New Delhi, Dec. 8: Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Friday said that as a judge, he is a "servant" of the law and the Constitution and has to follow the position that has been laid down.

As soon as a bench headed by the CJI assembled for the day's proceedings, advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara mentioned a matter before the court.

The lawyer then told the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, about the need for reforms in the collegium system as well as abolition of the senior advocate designation.

"You have the freedom to pursue your heart's desire. As the Chief Justice of India, but more importantly, as a judge

SC RAPS HC'S 'CONTROL SEXUAL URGES' ADVICE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 8

The Supreme Court on Friday castigated a Calcutta High Court judgment which sermonized young girls to control sexual urges", saying the observations are highly objectionable and unwarranted, and that judges are not expected to express their personal views or preach. A bench of Justices said the observations are completely in violation of the rights of adolescents under Article 21.

first, I am a servant of the law and the Constitution," Justice Chandrachud said.

"I have to follow a position which has been laid down," he said, adding, "I

SC ORDERS

LIQUOR GIANT Pernod Ricard's executive Benoy Babu granted bail in a money laundering case.

Response sought from Delhi lieutenant governor's office and others on a plea filed by AAP government seeking release of funds for its 'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme.

ICICI Bank former CEO Chanda Kochhar's plea seeking retirement benefits from the bank refused.

Petition seeking a direction to fix the limit of expenses by political parties and candidates in elections dismissed.

cannot say this is what I like and I will do it." In October this year, the apex court had dismissed a plea challenging the designation of lawyers as senior advocates, saying the petition was a "misadventure" largely of one of the petitioners as he sought to carry on a "villification campaign" against all and sundry. — PTI

Noted Kannada actor Leelavathi passes away

Bengaluru, Dec. 8: Eminent Kannada actor Leelavathi (85) who has worked in over 600 films, including as many as 400 in Kannada, was living with her actor son Vinod Raj at Nelamangala for the past many years.

Leelavathi is remembered for her role in *Bhakta Kumbara*, *Santha Thukaram*, *Bhatka Prahlada*, *Mangalya Yoga* and *Manava Mechcheda Madadi*. — PTI

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Deputy Manager (Technical)	E-2	50000-160000	4
Assistant Manager (Technical)	S-2	26500-72000	4
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Telephone: 011-49431800 | Website: janauashadhi.gov.in

WALK - IN - INTERVIEWS IN PMBI

Advt. No. 08/2023

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) is the implementing agency for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janauashadhi Parivahan of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. PMBI is expanding its operations and has urgent requirement in different departments. Walk-in-Interviews for such positions shall be held as follows:

Name of Posts & Department	Total Posts	Place of Posting	Date & Time of Interviews	Venue (Place/Address) of Walk-in-Interviews
Assistant Manager (Sales & Marketing)	02	Delhi & NCR	18.12.2023, (MONDAY) (10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)	Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), E-1, 8th Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhanewala Extn, New Delhi-110055
Senior Executive/Executive (Sales & Marketing)	03	Delhi & NCR	18.12.2023, (MONDAY) (02:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), E-1, 8th Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhanewala Extn, New Delhi-110055
Sr. Executive (Quality Control)	02	All India	19.12.2023, (TUESDAY) (10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)	Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), E-1, 8th Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhanewala Extn, New Delhi-110055
Sr. Executive (Logistics & Supply Chain)</td				

SHORT TAKES
CLIMATE TALKS ON FOR DEAL TO CUT FOSSIL FUELS

Dubai, Dec. 8: Negotiators were searching for a compromise on phasing out fossil fuels at UN climate talks Friday as momentum gathered to strike a deal in Dubai.

After the arrival of ministers for the summit's final stretch, a new draft was released with more options on the most difficult part of an emerging deal — cutting fossil fuels to tame the planet's soaring temperatures. The third version of the draft, which represents views of various countries, offers five options, including not mentioning fossil fuels at all. Other options include phasing out "unabated" fossil fuels — those whose emissions cannot be captured — with a goal of peaking consumption this decade and aiming for the world's energy sector to be "predominantly free of fossil fuels well ahead of 2050".

A new line calls for ramping up renewable energy to displace fossil fuels — oil, gas and coal — with a goal of "significantly reducing global reliance on non-renewable and high-emission energy sources". The language is in line with an agreement between the United States and China, the world's top emitters of greenhouse gases, at talks in California last month.

COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber wants to wrap up the talks on schedule at 11 am (0700 GMT) on Tuesday, which means that all the nearly 200 nations will have to come to a consensus. —AFP

Rockets hit U.S. embassy in Iraq

Baghdad, Dec. 8: A rocket attack on the sprawling US Embassy in Baghdad caused minor damage but no casualties Friday morning, US and Iraqi officials said.

The attack is the first on the embassy located in the heavily fortified Green Zone of Iraq's capital to be confirmed since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war. The Green Zone houses Iraqi government buildings and embassies on the west bank of the Tigris River.

Iran-backed militias in Iraq have claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks that targeted bases housing US troops in Iraq and Syria since Israel declared war on Hamas two months ago.

The US military says 78 attacks have been carried out against US facilities over the past weeks, of which 37 were in Iraq and 41 in Syria. An Iraqi security official said 14 Katyusha rockets were fired on Friday, of which some struck near one of the US Embassy's gates while others fell in the river. The official said the attack caused material damage but no casualties.

A US military official said a multi-rocket attack was launched at American and coalition forces in the vicinity of

CHINESE SPY BALLOON SEEN IN TAIWAN

Taipei, Dec. 8: Taiwan's defence ministry said a Chinese military surveillance balloon was spotted in the Taiwan Strait, as well as a large-scale movement of military aircraft and ships.

The ministry said the balloon passed southwest of the northern port city of Keelung on Thursday night, then continued east before disappearing, possibly into the Pacific Ocean. —AP

the embassy complex and the Union III base, which houses offices of the US-led coalition. The official added that no casualties and no damage to infrastructure were reported.

An embassy spokesperson said the US Embassy was attacked by two salvos of rockets at approximately 4:15 am (0215 GMT). Assessments are ongoing, but there are no reported casualties on the embassy compound, the official said, adding that no specific group had

UN CALLS MEET OVER GUYANA, VENEZUELA ROW

United Nations, Dec. 8: The UN Security Council scheduled an emergency closed meeting on Friday at the request of Guyana following Venezuela's weekend referendum claiming the vast oil and mineral-rich Essequibo region that makes up a large part of its neighbour. Guyana accused Venezuela of violating the UN Charter by attempting to take its territory. —AP

claimed responsibility for firing the rockets as of Friday morning but early indications pointed to Iran-aligned militias.

We again call on the government of Iraq, as we have done on many occasions, to do all in its power to protect diplomatic and Coalition partner personnel and facilities, the official said. We reiterate that we reserve the right to self-defense and to protect our personnel anywhere in the world. —AP



Vladimir Putin

PUTIN COFIRMS HE IS IN RACE FOR PRESIDENCY

Moscow, Dec. 8: Vladimir Putin on Friday moved to prolong his repressive and unyielding grip on Russia for at least another six years, announcing his candidacy in the presidential election next March that he is all but certain to win.

Putin still commands wide support after nearly a quarter-century in power, despite starting an immensely costly war in Ukraine that has taken thousands of his countrymen's lives, provoked repeated attacks inside Russia including one on the Kremlin itself and corroded its aura of invincibility. A short-lived rebellion in June by Yevgeny Prigozhin raised widespread speculation that Putin could be losing his grip, but he emerged with no scars.

Prigozhin's death in a plane crash two months later reinforced the view that Putin was in absolute control. —AP

Canada to hike costs for global students

INDIAN STUDENTS MOST AFFECTED

\$20,635

Prospective students will now need to show they have access to this much funds instead of the 10,000-dollar requirement that has been in place for two decades.

3,19,000 Indian students have picked Canada.

MOVING TO a more accurate cost of living level that helps international students arrive with necessary resources to live and study in Canada.

MARC MILLER, Canada immigration minister

Ottawa, Dec. 8: Canada will more than double the cost-of-living financial requirement for incoming international students beginning January 1, immigration minister Marc Miller has announced, a move that will impact the arrival of foreign students into the country, including from India.

Starting next year, prospective students will need to show they have access to 20,635 dollars instead of the 10,000-dollar requirement that has been in place for two decades, in addition to paying travel and tuition. The amount will be adjusted yearly based on a Statistics Canada benchmark for living costs.

India was the first among the top 10 origin countries of study permit holders in 2022 in Canada, with a total of 319,000 students. Miller said the financial requirement has not kept up with the cost of living over time, resulting in students arriving in Canada only to learn that their funds aren't adequate. This change will apply to new study permit applications received on or after January 1, 2024.

According to the global education search platform Eruera, the total number of international students

income cut-offs (LICO), which represents the minimum income necessary to ensure that an individual does not have to spend a greater than average portion of income on necessities, it said.

He also threatened to cap visas in provinces that don't help house students or who won't shut down educational institutions that he argues shouldn't be operating.

"There are, in provinces, the diploma equivalent of puppy mills that are just churning out diplomas, and this is not a legitimate student experience," Miller said. —PTI



TELUGU VERSION
SANDHYA 70MM

(Enjoy 4k Laser Projection & Dolby atmos Sound)

10.00,2.00,5.45,9.45PM

SVC SRILAXMI/INDRA NAGENDRA

10.15,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

SVC EESHWAR 70MM-6.00,10.00PM

AAA-9.15,12.00,3.45,6.50,10.30PM

PRASAD-11.00,2.45,5.00,6.30,10.15PM

OAMB AMB MALL-9.25,12.25,4.15,6.55PM

INOX GVK MALL-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

MP MALL-9.30,1.30,5.30,9.30PM

GSM MALL-10.15,2.15,6.15,10.15PM

NEKLACE-10.15,2.15,6.15,10.15PM

ASHOKA ONE-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

ASIAN CINEMAS SIVAGANGA-2.15PM | RADHIKA-1.15PM

JP CINEMAS-9.50,1.00,7.15,11.00PM

MCUBE-12.50PM | SHA-2.15,9.50PM

CINESQUARE-9.30,1.05,4.00,7.00,10.45PM

MJR-9.25,1.00,4.00,10.40PM

LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE

10.10,2.05,6.00,10.00PM

GACHIBOWLI-9.0,4.00PM

AMEERPET-9.00,3.00,10.00PM

MULTILEX 10.30,2.15,6.15,10.15PM

INNOVMAX 6.15,10.15PM

11.00,2.50,6.45,7.15,11.05PM

TIROLI 6.45,10.40PM

SUDHAL-6.45PM | MANTRA-9.45,11.10PM

CCPL-10.45,2.45,6.45,10.45PM

DSL-10.30,2.30,6.30,9.30PM

LULU-10.30,12.45,2.30,6.30,10.30,11.15

DILSKUNAGAR-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

BALANAGAR-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

MIYAPUR-10.00,2.00,6.00,6.30,10.10PM

CHANDANAGAR-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

MALKAJGIRI-10.00,2.00,6.00,6.30,10.00PM

FORUM-9.20,10.30,2.30,6.30,10.30PM

INORBITE-12.15,7.00,11.00PM

CENTRAL-2.30,6.30,10.30PM

RK-2.00PM | HITECH-11.45,6.30,10.30PM

L&T METRO-9.20,12.45,7.00,11.00PM

IRRUMMANZIL-9.30,1.20,8.05,11.00PM

MUSARAMBAGH-9.30,12.45,7.00,11.00PM

MALLAPUR-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

PRESTONE-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

ATRIUM-11.45,6.30,10.30PM

ARJUN70MM-10.00,2.00,6.00,9.45PM

RAJADHANI DELUXE-10.30,2.15,6.00,9.45PM

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI-2.15,9.15PM

VIJETHA70MM

10.30,2.00,6.00,9.00PM

TALLURI70MM

10.30,2.30,6.30,10.30PM

SRICRISTHA70MM

10.30,2.30,6.30,10.30PM

SRIRAKSHI70MM

10.30,2.30,6.30,10.30PM

SRISAIPPOOJA70

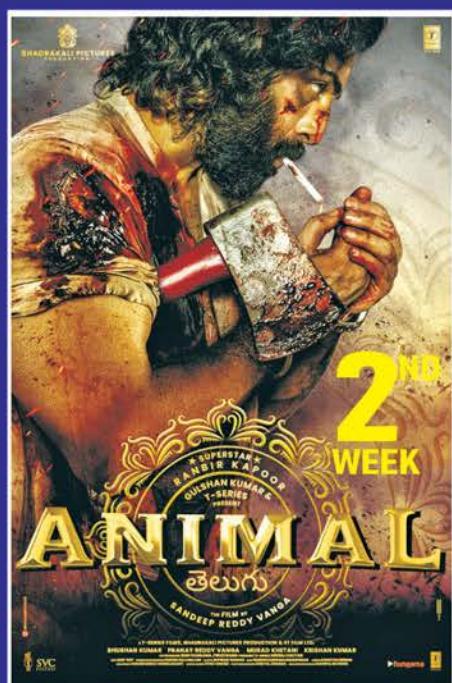
10.45,2.30,6.30,10.30PM

ASIAN MUKUND

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.45PM

VENKATESWARA70

11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM



HINDI VERSION
DEVI70MM-RTC X ROADS

(Enjoy 4k laser Projection & Dolby atmos Sound)

10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

ASIAN TARAKARAMA70MM

10.00,2.00,6.00,9.45PM

VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI

9.15PM(ONE SHOW)

RAMAKRISHNA35MM-ABIDS

10.30,2.15,6.00,9.30PM

ASIAN LAXMIKALA-2.10,6.10PM

9.00,12.20,3.50,6.50,10.00PM

3.50,10.20,11.00PM

INOX GV-10.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

MP MALL-9.00,2.00,6.00,10.00PM

GSM-10.00,2.00,6.00,9.30,10.00PM

NECKLACE-10.00,1.45,2.00,6.00,9.45,10.00PM

ASHOKA-11.00,4.40,5.30,5.30,9.30PM

MPI-10.00,2.00,6.00,6.00,10.00PM

MPI-10.00,2.00,6.00,6.00,10.00PM

MPI-10.00,2.00,6.00,6.00,10.00PM

SHORT TAKES

CHINA ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT CRITICAL STAGE: XI

Beijing, Dec. 8: President Xi Jinping said that China's economic recovery is at a "critical stage", state broadcaster CCTV reported Friday, as sluggish domestic activity and property sector woes drag on a post-pandemic rebound. "At present, the country's economic recovery is still at a critical stage," Xi said at a meeting of China's Communist Party Politburo, the country's top decision-making body, according to CCTV. Xi urged measures to boost the economy, saying that "the development situation facing the country is complex, with increasing adverse factors in the international political and economic environment".

FOES ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN MOVE TO EASE TENSIONS

Yerevan, Dec. 8: Arch-foes Armenia and Azerbaijan have said they will exchange prisoners of war and work towards normalising relations, a breakthrough that has been hailed internationally. The Caucasus neighbours have long fought over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan reclaimed after a lightning offensive against Armenian separatists in September. The two sides agreed in a joint statement late Thursday to seize "a historical chance to achieve peace".

Hunter indicted on 9 tax charges

Washington, Dec. 8: Hunter Biden was indicted on nine tax charges in California on Thursday as a special counsel investigation into the business dealings of President Joe Biden's son intensifies against the backdrop of the looming 2024 election.

The new charges—three felonies and six misdemeanours—are in addition to federal fire-arms charges in Delaware alleging Hunter broke laws against drug users having guns in 2018. They come after the implosion of a plea deal over the summer that would have spared him jail time, putting the case on track to a possible trial as his father campaigns for reelection. Hunter spent millions of dollars on an extravagant lifestyle rather than paying his tax, special counsel David Weiss said in a statement. The charges are centred on at least \$1.4 million in taxes Hunter Biden owed during between 2016 and 2019, a period where he has acknowledged struggling with addiction. The back taxes were paid. If convicted, Hunter Biden, 53, could face a maximum of 17 years in prison. The special counsel probe remains open, Weiss said.

In a fiery response, defence attorney Abbe Lowell accused Weiss of bowing to Republican pressure". Based on the facts and the law, if Hunter's last



Hunter Biden

name was anything other than Biden, the charges in Delaware and California, would not have been brought," Lowell said in a statement. The White House declined to comment on Thursday's indictment, referring questions to the Justice Department or Hunter Biden's personal representatives. The charging documents filed in California, where he lives, details spending on everything from drugs and strippers to luxury hotels and exotic cars, in short, everything but his taxes", prosecutor Leo Wise wrote.

The indictment comes as Republicans pursue an impeachment inquiry into President Biden, claiming he was engaged in an influence-peddling scheme with his son. No evidence has emerged so far to prove that Joe Biden, in his current or previous office, abused his role or accepted bribes, though questions have arisen about the ethics surrounding the Biden family's global business.

Israel bombards Gaza cities for Hamas men

US alarmed as Israel veers from promises not to kill civilians



Smoke rising above buildings during an Israeli strike in northern Gaza on Friday. — AFP

HAMAS: FOILED ISRAEL BID TO SAVE HOSTAGE

Jerusalem, Dec. 8: The Hamas said it repelled an attempted hostage rescue by Israeli special forces in Gaza, inflicting several military casualties, and that a captive died in the incident. Israel declined comment, accusing the Palestinian Islamist faction of attempting psychological warfare against it. Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades said its fighters discovered a special forces unit mounting a rescue attempt and attacked it, killing and wounding several soldiers. It said Israeli soldier Sa'ar Baruch, 25, was killed.

— Reuters

Flee to 'safe zone', Israel tells Gazans

GAZA CAN'T LOSE ANOTHER HOSP. BED, SAYS W.H.O.

Geneva, Dec. 8: Gaza's health system is on its knees and cannot afford to lose another ambulance or a single hospital bed more, the World Health Organization warned on Friday.

"The situation is getting more and more horrible by the day... beyond belief, literally," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told a press meet in Geneva. — AFP

uprooted from their homes and seeking safety from the heavy fighting between its troops and Hamas militants. Their numbers have swelled in recent days as people flee an Israeli military offensive in nearby areas of the southern Gaza Strip. Roughly 20 square km in southwest Gaza, Muwasi lies at the heart of a heated battle between Israel and international humanitarian organisations over the safety of the territory's civilians. Israel has offered Muwasi as a solution for protecting people

— Reuters

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LANKA TO SET UP COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN TAMIL MINORITY

Colombo, Dec. 8: The Sri Lankan government has decided to establish an independent commission in a historic step towards transitional justice and post-conflict reconciliation with the minority Tamil community to strengthen national unity, it was announced on Friday.

This proposed Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation will be established through an Act of Parliament, President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office said.

In a historic step towards transitional justice and post-conflict reconciliation, the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to establish an independent Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation," it said in a statement. It added that the drafting is under process as a concept paper in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The concept paper, used to prepare the final draft of the Bill for Parliament, will soon be available for comments to ensure an inclusive process in developing legislation that strengthens and safeguards national unity through truth, transitional justice, reconciliation, reparation and social cohesion," the statement said.

6 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN ISRAELI MILITARY RAID

Jerusalem, Dec. 8: Israeli forces stormed into a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Friday to arrest suspected Palestinian militants, unleashing fighting with local gunmen in which six Palestinians were killed, health officials said. Among the dead were a 14-year-old boy and the founder of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed offshoot of the secular nationalist Fatah party, the Palestinian health ministry said. Many chanted with bodies held aloft while masked militants fired into the air. Israeli undercover forces sneaked into the Faraa camp near the northern town of Tubas. — AP

— PTI

UK paid Rwanda \$300m for defunct asylum

London, Dec. 8: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was under pressure on Friday to explain why Britain has paid Rwanda £240 million (\$300 million) as part of a blocked asylum plan, without a single person being sent to the East African coun-

try. The total is almost twice the £140 million that Britain previously said it had handed to the Rwandan government under a deal struck in April 2022. Under the agreement, migrants who reach Britain across the English Channel would

be sent to Rwanda, where their asylum claims would be processed and, if successful, they would stay. The plan was challenged in UK courts, and no flights to Rwanda have taken off. Last month, Britain's Supreme Court ruled the policy was ille-

gal because Rwanda isn't a safe country for refugees. Despite the ruling and the mounting cost, Sunak has pledged to press on with the plan. The Home Office said it paid a further £100 million to Rwanda in the 2023-24 financial year and expects to hand over £50 million more in 12 months. Junior immigration minister Tom Pursglove defended the cost, saying the money will ensure all of the right infrastructure to support the partnership is in place. — AP

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

GRAND 2nd WEEK		NOW SHOWING		AMB CINEMAS		TIVOLI	
YAKUTHMAHAL	70MM-YAKUTPURA	SHEESH MAHAL	70MM-AMEERPET	5 Years	TODAY'S SCHEDULE	HI NANNA	ANIMAL
12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30	12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00	TEL 2D (U)	TEL 2D (U)	AMB	AMB	TEL 2D (U)	TEL 2D (A)
EXTRA ORDINARY MAN		LOVE IN THE JUNGLE		REVOLUTIONISING THE ART OF ENTERTAINMENT!		UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS	
11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM		12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00PM					
SANDHYA35		TIGER 3		5 Years		EXTRA ORDINARY MAN	
RTC X ROADS		MUSARAMBAGH-9.10,12.30,3.50,7.10,10.30PM		AMB		09:15 AM, 09:50 PM, 10:10 AM, 01:00 PM, 01:15 PM, 04:20 PM, 07:15 PM, 10:30 PM	09:25/350
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		INORBIT-9.10,10.15,12.30,3.50,7.10,10.30PM		CINEMAS		09:35 AM, 12:40 PM, 03:45 PM	09:25/350
SANDHYA35		IRRUMMANZIL-9.10,12.30,1.30,3.50,7.10,10.30PM		REVOLUTIONISING THE ART OF ENTERTAINMENT!		04:10 PM, 07:05 PM, 07:25 PM	09:35 AM, 12:40 PM, 03:45 PM
RTC X ROADS		MALLAPUR-9.20,12.40,4.00,7.20,10.40PM		SCHEDULE FOR TODAY		10:15 PM, 10:40 PM	10:15 PM, 10:40 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		L.T & METRO-9.00,10.15,1.20,4.20,7.50,11.10PM		EXTRA ORDINARY MAN		EXTRA ORDINARY MAN	EXTRA ORDINARY MAN
SANDHYA35		Hitech-9.20,12.40,4.00,7.20,10.40PM		TEL 2D (U)		09:15 AM, 09:50 PM, 10:10 AM, 01:00 PM, 01:15 PM, 04:20 PM, 07:15 PM, 10:30 PM	09:15 AM, 09:50 PM, 10:10 AM, 01:00 PM, 01:15 PM, 04:20 PM, 07:15 PM, 10:30 PM
RTC X ROADS		CENTRAL-9.20,12.40,4.00,7.20,10.40PM		AMB		09:35 AM, 12:40 PM, 03:45 PM	09:35 AM, 12:40 PM, 03:45 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		RK-9.20,12.40,4.00,7.20,10.40PM		AMB		10:45 PM, 12:25 PM, 04:15 PM	10:45 PM, 12:25 PM, 04:15 PM
SANDHYA35		FORUM-9.00,10.15,12.20,3.40,4.35,7.00,10.20,10.50PM		AMB		06:55 PM	06:55 PM
RTC X ROADS		MIYAPUR-10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40PM		AMB		SAM BAHADUR	SAM BAHADUR
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		MALKAJGIRI-10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40PM		AMB		12:50 PM, 03:55 PM, 07:40 PM	12:50 PM, 03:55 PM, 07:40 PM
SANDHYA35		CHANDANAGAR-10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
RTC X ROADS		BALANAGAR-10.00,1.10,4.20,7.30,10.40PM		AMB		10:00 AM, 01:15 PM, 08:05 PM	10:00 AM, 01:15 PM, 08:05 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		SIVAGANGA-11.00,2.15,4.55,7.55,11.10PM		AMB		10:45 PM	10:45 PM
SANDHYA35		RADHIKA-10.10,1.15,4.40,7.35,10.45PM		AMB		09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM	09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM
RTC X ROADS		MCUBE MALL-10.05,1.05,4.30,7.25,10.35PM		AMB		06:50 PM, 10:20 PM	06:50 PM, 10:20 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		CINEPLANET-10.10,1.15,4.00,7.25,10.30PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
SANDHYA35		CINESQUARE-10.10,10.30,1.20,4.20,7.00,7.30,10.35PM		AMB		09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM	09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM
RTC X ROADS		M.J.R. SQUARE-10.10,10.15,1.15,4.00,7.25,10.30PM		AMB		06:50 PM, 10:20 PM	06:50 PM, 10:20 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		JP CINEMAS-10.10,10.30,1.20,4.20,7.00,7.30,10.40PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
SANDHYA35		CPL-10.20,1.25,4.40,4.55,7.55,11.10PM		AMB		10:45 PM	10:45 PM
RTC X ROADS		SUDHA-10.20,1.25,4.40,7.55,10.40,11.10PM		AMB		09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM	09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		DSL-10.15,1.20,3.50,4.35,7.50,10.20,11.05PM		AMB		06:50 PM, 10:20 PM	06:50 PM, 10:20 PM
SANDHYA35		MANTRA-9.30,10.15,1.20,4.35,7.50,10.55,11.05PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
RTC X ROADS		LULU-10.15,1.20,3.40,4.35,7.50,11.05PM		AMB		09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM	09:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 03:50 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		PRASAD-11.00,2.15,5.15,8.15,11.15PM		AMB		06:50 PM, 10:20 PM	06:50 PM, 10:20 PM
SANDHYA35		MOOSAPET-11.15,2.30,6.15,9.30PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
RTC X ROADS		TIVOLI-10.30,1.40,4.40,7.40,10.40PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		GACHIBOWLI-10.00,1.00,4.00,7.30,10.55PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
SANDHYA35		AMEERPET-9.00,1.00,4.00,7.45,10.45PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
RTC X ROADS		TIVOLI-10.30,1.40,4.40,7.40,10.40PM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		DUNKI		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
SANDHYA35		AQUAMAN		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
RTC X ROADS		SALAAR		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		EXTRA ORDINARYMAN		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
SANDHYA35		SAM BAHADUR		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
RTC X ROADS		JORAM		AMB		10:40 PM	10:40 PM
ENJOY 4K LASER PROJECTION & DOLBY ATMOS		WONKA		AMB</td			

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	69,825.60
Nifty 50	20,969.40
S&P 500*	4,578.16
Dollar ()	-0.16
Pound Sterling ()	83.38
Euro ()	0.01
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	104.74
Gold (10gm)* ()	89.84
Gold (10gm)* ()	0.03
INR-Yr bond yield*	62,470.54
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	7.271
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.036
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.176
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.047

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Tata arm, BPCL to set up 7,000 charging points

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility said it has entered into a collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd to set up 7,000 charging stations. The two companies have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in establishing public charging stations across India. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM) said in a statement. The collaboration will leverage BPCL's fuel stations network.



CCI survey to assess AI impact on competition

Fair trade watchdog CCI is conducting a market study to assess the impact of artificial intelligence on the competition landscape, the regulator's chief Ravneet Kaur. "In that study (we will) try to understand the dynamics better. We can differentiate what kind of AI that we would like to support and which one is stifling competition," Kaur said at an event organised by industry chamber FICCI here.

Max Healthcare to acquire Starlit Medical

Max Healthcare Institute on Friday said it will fully acquire Starlit Medical Centre for an enterprise value of ₹940 crore thereby giving it the ownership of 550-bedded Sahara Hospital in Lucknow. Max Healthcare chairman and managing director Abhay Soi said the acquisition is in line with the company's strategy to enter new tier I and tier II cities which have a developed healthcare services ecosystem.

Nayara to begin operations of new plant next year

Nayara Energy said it will start operations of new polypropylene plant in the first half of next year, marking its entry into the petrochemical sector. With wide applications in segments like packaging, automotive applications, consumer durables the demand for polypropylene is projected to rise. "Nayara is ready to enter into the petrochemicals sector with its upcoming 4,50,000 tonne per annum plant," it said.

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Economy projected to grow at 7% this fiscal year, says RBI governor Das Repo rates unchanged at 6.5%

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, DEC. 8

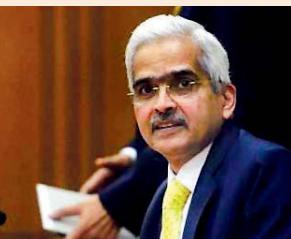
The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged for the fifth time in a row at 6.5 per cent on Friday. Repo rate is the interest rate at which RBI lends short term money to commercial banks.

India's economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent (conservative estimate) in FY24, 6.5 per cent and 6 per cent in Q3 and Q4 respectively. The GDP growth rate in the first three quarters of FY25 has been pegged at 6.7 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively. It kept the consumer price index (CPI) inflation forecast unchanged at 5.4 per cent for FY2023-2024.

This was the last bi-monthly policy meeting of this calendar year. The six member rate-setting panel i.e. MPC voted unanimously to keep the rates unchanged while five of the six members voted to remain focussed on the withdrawal of accommodation stance. Between May 2022 and February 2023, the MPC has increased the repo rate by 250 basis points from a historic low of 4 percent.

Since its first credit policy

- **LOOKING AHEAD,** private consumption should gain support from improvement in rural demand, strengthening of manufacturing activity, buoyancy in services.



meeting this calendar year, the MPC has held the benchmark repo rate at 6.5 per cent.

"Inflation is top priority and loosening of rates is not on the table," Shaktikanta Das, RBI governor told reporters at the policy press conference.

With growth momentum sustaining, economists now expect the RBI to be on a long pause.

Das said that the near-term inflation outlook is masked by risks to food

inflation which might lead to an inflation uptick in November and December. "While monetary policy would look-through such one-off shocks, it has to stay alert to the risk of such shocks becoming generalised and derailing the ongoing disinflation process."

"Based on the evolving situation, the MPC will take appropriate action to reach the 4 per cent target," added Das.

A status quo in repo rate would provide slight relief for those paying home loan EMIs and also to real estate developers.

Anuj Puri, chairman Anarock Group said, "Given that housing prices have escalated across the top 7 cities in the last one year, at least the unchanged home loan rates will give some relief to the home buyers. Going

forward, we may expect the momentum in housing sales to continue in the wake of the unchanged repo rates coupled with the resultant stable home loan rates and positive economic outlook on India."

Looking ahead, private consumption should gain support from gradual improvement in rural demand, strengthening of manufacturing activity and continued buoyancy in services. The healthy twin balance sheets of banks and corporates, high capacity utilisation, continuing business optimism and government's thrust on infrastructure spending should propel private sector capex. The drag from external demand is also expected to moderate with a turnaround in merchandise and services exports.

RBI plans new rules for loan aggregators

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, DEC. 8

In a bid to safeguard borrowers' interest, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced that it would soon lay down the regulatory framework for web-aggregation of loan products.

The central bank also announced its plans to come out with a unified regulatory framework on connected lending for all the entities regulated by it. "Several concerns relating to such web-aggregation of loan products harming consumers' interest have come to our notice," Das said during the monetary policy.

The RBI introduced the regulatory framework for web-aggregators of loan products (WALP) in August 2022. WALP entails aggregation of loan offers from multiple lenders on an electronic platform which enables the borrowers to compare and choose the best available option to avail loan from one of the available lenders.

"Based on the recommendation of the Working Group (on digital lending), it has been decided to bring such loan aggregation services offered by the Lending Service Providers (LSPs) under a comprehensive regulatory framework.

The framework will focus on enhancing the transparency in the operations of WALPs, increase customer centricity and enable the borrowers to make informed choices. The detailed guidelines will be issued separately.



● **RBI ALSO** said that it would roll out a framework for connected lending or lending to persons who are in a position to control or influence the decision of a lender. Such lending could be a concern.

The extant guidelines on the issue are limited in scope and are not applicable uniformly to all regulated entities.

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UPI limit pegged at ₹5 lakh for medical, educational services

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, DEC. 8

To encourage the use of UPI for medical and educational services, the central bank on Friday proposed to enhance the limit for payments to hospitals and educational institutions from ₹one lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction.

Separate instructions will be issued shortly, said the central bank. Due to the ease of payments offered by it, UPI is emerging as a preferred mode of payments for not only

dates for making payments of a recurring nature have been raised to ₹ one lakh for mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium subscriptions, and credit card repayments.

Meanwhile, the Indian Banks Association (IBA) and other bank unions have reached a consensus on wage revision and agreed to an annual increase of 17 per cent in salaries for five years, starting fiscal 2021-22. The wage revision will be effective Nov 1, 2022.

The limits for e-man-

it," Goyal said here at an industry chamber event here.

According to a Global Trade Research Initiative report, CBAM will translate into a 20-35 per cent tax on select imports into the EU, starting Jan. 1, 2026. India's 26.6 per cent of exports of iron ore pellets, iron, steel, and aluminium products go to the EU. These products would be hit by CBAM. India exported these goods worth \$7.4 billion in 2022 to the EU.

India retaliated against the US after it imposed additional customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products, he said.

The 10 year government bond yield rose 0.4 per cent to 7.2 per cent as compared to previous close at 7.2 per cent reacting to RBI's monetary policy measures.

The Nifty-50 index hit a high of 21,006.1 around 10 am but later saw profit taking and closed a tad lower at 20,969.4 up 68.25 points or 0.3 per cent, a new all time high.

The rise from 20,000 level to 21,000 for Nifty-50 happened in the shortest span of time, over just 8 trading days, with the index crossing the 20,000 mark on Nov. 29 and 21,000 on Dec. 8.

"Nifty hit the 21K-mark

CCI survey to seek clarity on export norms



DIAMOND TRADERS SEEK CLARITY ON EXPORT NORMS

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 8

The diamond processing industry in India is seeking clarity about determining compliance by the Indian diamond exporters to the G7 countries in the wake of the ban on Russian diamonds.

The G7 countries – the US, the UK, France, Germany, Canada, Japan, and Italy have said that they will ban all imports of rough diamonds directly from Russia from Jan. 1, 2024. It will expand to include Russian diamonds that have been processed in third countries from March 1, with a full traceability system implemented by the start of September.

The decision, though expected, has raised concerns among the diamond processing industry in India.

He announced it in a post on X, without revealing any more details of the launch. Last month, he had said that as soon as Grok was out of early beta testing, it would become

available to the subscribers.

As more advertisers move away from the microblogging platform, the billionaire has stressed on reducing the company's reliance on advertising and has turned his focus on subscriptions and making them more attractive.

He even intends to turn X into a "super app", offering a range of services to

its subscribers from messaging and social networking to peer-to-peer payments.

Grok launched xAI in July in a response to Big Tech's AI efforts. Firms including Microsoft and Alphabet's Google are racing to launch AI-powered products after OpenAI's chatbot ChatGPT caught the imagination of businesses and the users globally.

"Reuter

India will retaliate EU's plan for carbon tax: Goyal



Musk's xAI brings new tool

Apple diversifying operations from China by working with partners

Tata plans biggest iPhone assembly plant

Nayara to begin operations of new plant next year

Max Healthcare to acquire Starlit Medical

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DIAMOND TRADERS SEEK CLARITY ON EXPORT NORMS</h

SHORT TAKES

Indian women beat South Korea

Santiago, Chile: India came from behind to outwit Korea 3-1 in the 9th-12th place classification match of the Junior women's hockey World Cup here.

Ropni Kumari (23rd minute), Mumtaz Khan (44th) and Annu (46th) scored for India, while Jiyun Choi (19th) was the goalgetter for Korea on Thursday.

In the opening quarter, Korea dominated possession and secured the first penalty corner, but they could not utilise the chance. India, opting for counter-attacks, kept Korea's defence busy but couldn't convert their promising entries to the opposition circle, resulting to a goalless deadlock after the first quarter.

The second quarter mirrored the intensity of the first, with India and Korea persisting in their attacking plays. Choi broke the deadlock with a precise penalty corner strike, but India swiftly responded through Ropni, who equalized from another penalty corner.

— PTI

Savita to captain hockey women

New Delhi: Goalkeeper Savita Punia will continue to lead the Indian women's hockey team, while veteran forward Vandana Kataria will be her deputy as the national federation on Friday announced a 22-member team for the upcoming 5-Nation Tournament in Spain. India will play against Ireland, Germany, Spain and Belgium in the tournament which is scheduled to be held from December 15 to 22 in Valencia. It will serve as the preparatory assignment ahead of the all-important Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi beginning from January 13.

"We are going with a well-balanced, strong team," Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman said in a release from HI.

The Squad: Savita (Captain), Bichu Devi Kharibam, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Gurjit Kaur, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Nisha, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Monika, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, Baljeet Kaur; Jyoti Chhatri, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Vandana Kataria (vice-captain), Beauty Dundung, Sharmila Devi. — PTI

Ananjeet, Raiza continue fine run

New Delhi: Hangzhou Asian Games silver medalist Ananjeet Singh Naruka was unchallengeable in the men's skeet national selection trials 1, while Raiza Dhillon overcame national champion Ganemat Sekhon in women's skeet at the Karni Singh range here on Friday.

Rajasthan's Naruka and Haryana's Raiza, both shot down 58 clay targets in the 60-shot final to register victories. National champion Naruka, following his exploits in Hangzhou, shot 24 early in the morning in the final qualification round to finish on top in the 40-strong field with a score of 121 out of a possible 125. He missed a target on his very first station in the six-man final, but only one more after that, to leave behind Sheeraz Sheikh comfortably in second place. Sheeraz shot 56, while Gurjot Khangura was third with 45-hits in the first 50 targets.

Sheeraz, on a comeback trail, also kept his poise throughout the day, coming second in a four-man shoot-off for two final qualification spots. — PTI

Project Grand Slam boost for Jr girls

New Delhi: Concerned that no Indian woman tennis player could make it to the junior Grand Slams in the last five years, Lakshya Sports and Amalgam Steel have launched 'Project Grand Slam' which will extend comprehensive support to five players, identified through a rigorous process.

The primary objective of the ambitious project is to guide young players from the grassroots level and provide them with all round support for evolving into world-class tennis players. The project is a brainchild of Sports NGO Lakshya's vice-president and Joint

Secretary of AITA Sunder Iyer and Sourav Mishra, JMD of Amalgam Steel. In the first phase, Maya Rajeshwaran, Prisha Shinde, Kaashvi Sunil, Aishwarya Jadhav, Rishitha Reddy, Nainika Reddy, Yashika Shoukran, Sejal Bhutada and Akruti Sonkusar have been short-listed for the program.

About 100 players were identified thorough recent Nationals and after further assessment either four or five will be picked for assistance. — PTI

Everton stun Newcastle

Move out of Premier League relegation zone; Spurs lose again

London, Dec. 8: A 10-point deduction for breaching the Premier League's financial rules had plunged Everton into the relegation zone and threatened to end its 70-year stay in England's top division.

The Merseyside club is not out of danger yet but on Thursday climbed above the drop zone with a 3-0 win against Newcastle to underline its determination to battle its way to safety.

"The mentality is key for me. We took a knock, but there have been a lot of knocks here over the last couple of years. But the team mentality is growing. I can't emphasize it enough. The commitment to each other and the connection is a powerful thing because I know we've got quality," Everton manager Sean Dyche said.

Everton is appealing what was the biggest sporting sanction in Premier League history after it was found to have made losses that exceeded the competition's profit and financial sustainability rules.

One of English soccer's most storied clubs, Everton has fallen on hard times in recent years nar-



Dwight McNeil (right) of Everton vies with Bruno Guimaraes of Newcastle United during an English Premier League football match on Thursday. — AFP

rowly avoiding relegation in each of the last two seasons. That might not have been the case this year, had it not been for the sanctions, having been eight points clear of the bottom three before the deduction.

"Without those 10 points, we'd be in an amazing

position 20 points would be amazing relatively to the last two seasons here," Dyche said.

Everton has responded impressively to the punishment, winning back-to-back league games.

After beating Nottingham Forest 1-0 on Saturday, goals from Dwight

McNeil, Abdoulaye Doucouré and Beto secured victory against a Newcastle team that is hoping to challenge for the top four again this season.

Eddie Howe's team had beaten Manchester United 1-0 over the weekend, but a deepening injury list is taking its toll, with goal-

keeper Nick Pope, defenders Sven Botman and Dan Burn and midfielders Sean Longstaff and Harvey Barnes among those sidelined.

"We have to do better. There are reasons behind every performance and we have struggled to change players," Howe said.

Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou was also left to assess a latest setback for his team as its winless run extended to five games after a 2-1 loss at home to West Ham.

It was a familiar story for Spurs as they squandered a lead yet again and dropped more points.

Tottenham's run has seen it fall from first to fifth in the table, losing four and drawing one of its last five matches.

To make matters worse, the Londoners have led in each of the games during that sequence.

On Thursday it was Cristian Romero who put Tottenham ahead at home before second half strikes from Jarrod Bowen and James Ward-Prowse sealed a come-back win for West Ham.

You want to be in a position where if you dominate games of football you turn it into wins," Postecoglou said. — AP

Indian eves gear up for 2nd T20



Indian batter Smriti Mandhana plays a shot during a practice session ahead of the second T20I match against England at Wankhede in Mumbai. — DEBASISH DEY

at times for England batters to dominate, whereas their fielders did not support them enough. Both Danni Wyatt and Nat Sciver-Brunt were given lifelines which proved to be costly for the home team. The only bright spot in India's bowling was seamer Renuka Singh Thakur, who had left England reeling at 2 for 2 in the opening over.

But India not only allowed England to stage a comeback, the hosts, coming off a two-month break, also could not force their way back into the game at

any stage.

While Indian tweakers cut a sorry figure, England's spin pair of Sophie Ecclestone (4-0-15-3) and Sarah Glenn (1/25) exposed India's batters with probing line and lengths that just did not allow them to free their arms.

India's batters could not make a dent chasing 198 even though opening batter Shafali Verma scored a quality half-century (52) and Harmanpreet Kaur (26) was looking promising with the bat. Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues failed to make a

mark on a perfect batting track and the team will expect more from the two seasoned campaigners.

India will have to make significant improvements in a short time if they have to challenge England.

India's bowlers will be challenged by the seamers in the ODI World Cup, has been India's go-to bowler in ODIs and Tests.

Mhambrey doesn't want to take any credit for Shami's success.

Will India get another talent like Mohammed Shami? "Well, if I tell you that coaches could create a bowler like Shami, then I would be lying. If a bowler can land it on upright seam every time then every other bowler in the world will be Shami," Mhambrey said.

"It is a skill that Shami has acquired with tremendous hardwork and developed himself into the bowler that he is. Bowling ball after ball on the seam and with that perfect wrist position and getting it to move either ways is a rare skill set. A lot of bowlers will see the ball straightening up after pitching," he said. — PTI

Raza does well for Zimbabwe

Harare, Dec. 8: Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza starred with bat and ball as Zimbabwe beat Ireland by one wicket on Thursday in a thrilling opening Twenty 20 international match of a three-match series.

Ireland posted 147 for 8 off 20 overs and Blessing Muzarabani hit two runs off the final ball of the match, which was the first delivery he faced, to take Zimbabwe to 148 for 9 at Harare Sports Club.

The spin bowling of Raza claimed three wickets, including top Irish scorer Andy Balbirnie, the recently deposed captain whose 32 included a six and six fours.

Batting at number four, Pakistan-born Raza struck 65, and his 42-ball stand was laced with two sixes and five fours.

When the skipper was caught by Ireland captain Paul Stirling off the bowling of Mark Adair, Zimbabwe needed 11 runs from nine balls to win with two wickets remaining.

The home team reached 146 when Richard Ngarava became the

Phillips fifty leads Kiwis fightback vs Bangladesh

Mirpur (Bangladesh), Dec. 8: Glenn Phillips hit an aggressive 87 to keep New Zealand in the game on day three of a finely poised rain-hit second and final Test against Bangladesh on Friday.

All-rounder Phillips lifted New Zealand from a precarious 55 for 5 at the start of day to 180 all out in response to Bangladesh's first innings total of 172 in Dhaka.

Bangladesh wiped out the eight-run deficit to reach 38 for 2 when bad light forced early stumps, with 37 overs remaining on the day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Opener Zakir Hasan was batting on 16 with Momnul Haque on.

Spinner Ajaz Patel removed Mahmudul Hasan Joy for two in the first over and skipper Tim Southee took down his Bangladesh counterpart Najmul Hasan Shanto for 15.

Play resumed Friday after four sessions — one in the morning — were washed out because of rain with New Zealand trailing Bangladesh by 117

runs. Phillips came to the rescue with nine fours and four sixes in his defiant 72-ball knock.

He put on a 55-run eighth-wicket stand with Kyle Jamieson (20) and stood strong till his departure.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam picked up three wickets each for Bangladesh. Nayem Hasan and Shoriful Islam claimed two wickets apiece.

Phillips and fellow overnight batsman Daryl

McHale took an aggressive approach and were rewarded with a stand of 49 for the sixth wicket, before Bangladesh had their first success of the day.

Mehidy took a superb catch, running to his left from mid-on and diving at full length to dismiss Mitchell for 18 off Nayem. — AFP

Brief scores: Bangladesh 172 & 38/2 in 8 overs vs New Zealand 180 in 37.1 overs (Glenn Phillips 87; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3/53).

Glen Phillips of New Zealand bats during the third day of the second Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka, on Friday. — AP

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Phillips and fellow overnight batsman Daryl

CITY CLIPS

Top seed Yashpaul in summit clash

Top seed Yashpaul Neeraj sailed into the singles title clash at the Kantilal Pokarna Memorial AITA Men's ₹2.5 lakh prize money National Ranking Tournament conducted by the Hyderabad District Tennis Association (HDTA) at Lake View Tennis Academy on Friday.

In the semifinal, Yashpaul got the better of Jaya Rakesh Oges Theyjo (TN) 7-6 (3), 6-3. In another match, second seed Aggarwal Parth eased past A. Deepak 6-1, 6-2 to set up final against Yashpaul.

THE RESULTS

Singles semifinals: Yashpaul Neeraj (1, CH) bt Jaya Rakesh Oges Theyjo (TN) 7-6 (3), 6-3; Aggarwal Parth (2, DL) bt A. Deepak (KA) 6-1, 6-2.

Aryan to lead Telangana squad

Aryan Karra will lead the Telangana senior men's team at the 61st National Roller Skating Championship scheduled to be held in Chandigarh from December 11 to 25.



The Squad: T. Tharun, Aryan Karra (captain), Thota Bhargav Rakesh, Siva Subramanyam, Manikonda Sai Vignesh, Gummadi Bharath, Sayeed Gouse, Eladandi Janaki Ram, K. Bharath, Dhara Srujan Reddy, B. Sai Kumar, B. Manikantha.

Viresh takes sole lead at nationals

Sharnarthi Viresh took the sole lead in the open Scategory at the 36th National Under-13 years Boys & Girls Chess Championship being played at the Multipurpose Indoor Stadium in South Central Railway Sports Complex, Secunderabad.

Viresh of Maharashtra scored eight points from as many rounds to emerge on top. He defeated his compatriot Vivaan Vijay Sarao in the eighth round.

THE RESULTS

Open category after eighth round: Sharnarthi Viresh (Maharashtra) 8 bt Vivaan Vijay Sarao (Maharashtra) 6.5; Mrinmoy Rajkhowa (Assam) 6.5 drew with Adharsh K (Tamil Nadu) 7; Raghab V (Tamil Nadu) 7 bt Banik Hrishikesh Kumar (West Bengal) 6; Mohit S (Tamil Nadu) 6.5 drew with Vihaan Dumir (Maharashtra) 6.5; Vatsal Singla (Delhi) 6 lost to Sushanth Vaman Shetty (Karnataka) 7; Gaikwad Manas (Maharashtra) 6.5 bt Darshan S (Tamil Nadu) 6; Sriram Adarsh Uppala (Telangana) 6.5 bt Aadik Theophane Lenin (Karnataka) 5.5; Saisarvesh S (Tamil Nadu) 6 drew with Jain Kushagra (Maharashtra) 6.

STRIP NO SHAKES

ICC rates Ahmedabad pitch that hosted World Cup final as 'average'

New Delhi, Dec. 8: The pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, which hosted the ODI World Cup final between India and Australia on November 19, has been rated "average" by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

ICC match referee and former Zimbabwean batter Andy Pycroft, however, rated the outfield as "very good".

The pitches used in India's league matches against South Africa, England, Pakistan and Australia in Kolkata, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Chennai respectively were also rated as 'average' by the ICC.

ICC match referee and former Zimbabwean batter Andy Pycroft, however, rated the outfield as "very good".

Australia had won the World Cup final after beating India by six wickets on a pitch which was slow and sluggish.

Opting to bowl, India could score just 240 in 50 overs with Australia achieving the target in 43 overs, with opener Travis Head making a 120-ball 137.

165 players to go under hammer

Mumbai, Dec. 8: With the biggest purse going into the WPL auction on Saturday, last edition's wooden-spooners Gujarat Giants will look to plug the holes ahead of the 2024 edition of the league, while the four other teams will be keen to fine-tune their squads.

Gujarat Giants finished fifth and last in the inaugural edition in March, while another high-profile team Royal Challengers Bangalore finished fourth.

A total of 165 players — 104 Indians and 61 overseas, including 15 from Associate nations — will be in contention for the 30 spots, including nine for overseas in the Women's Premier League (WPL) mini-auction. The auction will feature 56 capped and 109 uncapped players.

The second edition of the

WPL will likely be organised in February-March ahead of the IPL.

PRICE TALK

West Indies' Deandra Dottin, who was controversially excluded from the Gujarat Giants' squad ahead of the start of the first season on medical grounds, is one of the two players with the highest reserve price of ₹50 lakh. Irish-Australian cricketer Kim Garth, who reportedly replaced Dottin in the Giants' squad, is the other player.

Australia all-rounders Annabel Sutherland and Georgia Wareham, who both played in the inaugural WPL, have a base price of ₹40 lakh.

South Africa's Shabnim Ismail and England wicket-keeper-batter Amy Jones

'good' rating. There were media reports ahead of that match suggesting that the hosts had switched pitch, offering a used surface instead of a fresh one. The ICC also gave an "average" rating to the Eden Gardens pitch in Kolkata, which hosted the second semifinal between Australia and South Africa.

It turned out to be a low-scoring match where Australia dismissed South Africa for 212 in 49.4 overs. Australia then managed to overhaul the target in 47.2 overs, losing seven wickets. ICC match referee and former India pacer Javagal Srinath, however, gave a "very good" rating to the outfield at Eden Gardens.

According to the ICC, a pitch is rated average if it "lacks carry, and/or bounce and/or occasional seam movement, but consistent in carry and bounce. A degree of turn, but with average bounce for the spinner. Falling significantly short of 'very good' with respect to carry, bounce and turn."

— PTI

are the other two cricketers with a base price of Rs 40 lakh. Veteran Indian cricketers Veda Krishnamurthy, Poonam Raut, Sushma Verma, Ekta Bisht, Gouher Sultan and Mona Meshram are in the auction with a base price of ₹30 lakh.

Australia's Erin Burns and Sophie Molineux, England's Danni Wyatt and Tammy Beaumont, Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu and South Africa's Nadine de Klerk are the other prominent names in the ₹30-lakh bracket.

AVAILABLE SLOTS

The Gujarat Giants' table could be the busiest during the auction as along with the biggest purse — ₹5.95 crore — comes the task of finding 10 new players to rebuild their squad after a forgettable first season.

Australia's Beth Mooney got injured in the first game and was ruled out with India's Sneha Rana donning the captain's hat for most part of the season.

Having let go of some quality overseas players such as Sutherland, Wareham, Garth and Sophia Dunkley, the Giants will look to reinforce their bench strength.

Thailand's 19-year-old Thipatcha Putthawong has sparked a lot of interest in the RCB camp.

RCB, who lost six of their eight matches in the last edition and missed the play-offs, have ₹3.35 crore in their kitty and need another seven players, including three overseas, to complete their squad limit of 18 players.

— PTI

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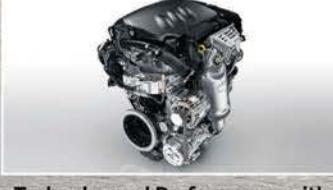
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