



Gift packets

Minister Koppula Eshwar asks officials to complete supply of Christmas gift packets to the districts by December 5

City

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 23 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



We are keen to promote skill development programmes for women

— Bonthu Rammohan
Mayor

GHMC BLAMES RAINS FOR COLLAPSE

From Page 1

Commissioner D.S. Lokesh, zonal commissioner B Srinivas Reddy and other officials were blissfully unaware of the collapse. They have apparently decided to check the structural stability on Saturday.

The Swapnalok complex has cracks on all floors. The building is dangerously weak and has several offices including travel agencies, insurance agencies, garment and shoe shops, eateries, labs and data entry companies.

Lakhs pass by on their way to Patny junction. Thus even a minor collapse would be major trouble. *Deccan Chronicle* informed zonal commissioner Srinivas Reddy but he said it was too late to send anyone over, and that someone would be deputed on Saturday.

Lokesh Kumar claimed he was unaware and said he would look into it. He said that the structure became dangerously weak due to incessant rainfall. The corporation would inspect the site and take further action.

RACHNATMAK CONG TO EXPAND BASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

The first meeting of Rachnatmak Congress held at AICC war room at Delhi on Friday decided to work with all non-political organisations and civil society groups towards extending the party's base. Telangana TPCC general secretaries Vinod Reddy, Premal and TPCC spokesperson Ravali Reddy attended the meeting.

Rachnatmak Congress was formed in 2018 by then AICC president Rahul Gandhi to bridge the gap between the Congress party and civil society and non-political organisations that work with people and take up their issues. These include non-governmental organisations, apart from sarvodaya, Gandhian and khadi bodies, trade unions, non-RSS religious groups and others. TPCC general secretary Vinod Reddy said the Rachnatmak Congress was set up with the purpose of reinvigorating connections with civil society groups and work with them for the rights of people.

AMARAVATI GETS CENTRE'S RECOGNITION

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

Vijaywada: Union home ministry issued new political map of India, recognising Amaravati as the Capital of Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, the ministry had issued India's political map without AP capital name.

Earlier, the map printed Hyderabad as the capital of Telangana State but did not mention Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Ramesh gets HC relief

High Court stays revocation of the MLA's citizenship

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Vemulawada MLA, Dr Chennamaneni Ramesh, secured temporary relief in the High Court on Friday on the question of his citizenship.

While dealing with Ramesh's petition challenging the order of union home ministry, Justice Challa Kodandaram granted an interim suspension for four weeks on the order of the under secretary, declaring the petitioner as 'not a citizen of India.'

The judge further direct-



● Ramesh's counsel said that the statute does not provide for stripping the citizenship of a person when his stay in India is conducive to the people of the country.

ed N. Rajeshwara Rao, assistant solicitor general of India (ASG), representing the union home ministry, to produce records pertaining to Ramesh's residence in Germany when he was granted Indian citizenship. During arguments, the

ASG said Ramesh applied for an Indian citizenship on 31 March, 2008 and got the citizenship on 03 February 2009. In between this period, the petitioner stayed in Germany and the period of time he spent in India is only two months. Adv. Vedula

Venkataramana, the counsel representing Ramesh, said that the statute does not provide for stripping the citizenship of a person when his stay in India is conducive to the people of the country. Adv. Ravi Kiran Rao, counsel for Adi Srinivas, who contested in the elections against Ramesh and lost said that the government of India, home ministry, after going through all the material placed before it, has concluded that the petitioner has obtained Indian Citizenship by fraudulent means and by placing false information.

Traffic curbs for Arijit Show

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

In connection with 'Arijit Singh (Singer) Live concert on Saturday between 5 pm to 10pm at the L.B. Stadium, Hyderabad, the following traffic restrictions will be made, if required, as per the traffic situation, the police said.

At AR Petrol Pump Jn., traffic will not be allowed towards BJR Statue and will be diverted towards Nampally (through K.L.K. Building) or Ravindra Bharati

Traffic coming from Abids and Gunfoundry side will not be allowed towards BJR Statue and Basheerbagh Jn., and it will be diverted at SBI



Gunfoundry towards Chapel road.

Traffic coming from Old MLA quarters towards Basheerbagh will be diverted at old MLA Qtrs towards Himayatnagar Y. Junction.

Traffic coming from King Koti to Basheerbagh via: Bharatiya Vidya

Bhavan will be diverted at King Koti X Roads towards Tajmahal and Eden Garden.

Traffic coming from Liberty towards Basheerbagh Jn. will be diverted at Liberty Jn. towards Himayatnagar.

Traffic coming from Ravindra Bharathi side intends to go towards Basheerbagh will not be allowed, will be diverted at Old PCR junction towards Nampally.

All citizens are requested to make a note and take alternate routes to reach their destinations during the specified timings and cooperate with the traffic police, addl. commissioner of police, (traffic), said.

Hairy tale



Students punished by the class teacher for improper haircut at the Government Boys High School, Chanchalguda, on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

Why Centre was silent on RTC strike, questions Cong leader

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president and former MP, Ponnamp Prabhakar, questioned the central government's reluctance to intervene in Road Transport Corporation (RTC) strike.

Speaking to the media on Friday, Mr Prabhakar criticised the central government led by the BJP for 'playing a drama' in the RTC strike when it is likely coming to an end.

The senior Congress leader said that the central government did not respond to the strike for the last 48 days even though it has a 31 per cent share in the corporation.

He said that it is shameful that Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao did not respond to the phone calls made by Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari.

He also spoke on the Mid Manair dam.

He said TRS leaders have alleged that the previous Congress government was responsible for the leakages in the Mid Manair dam, and that means that the TRS accepts that the dam was constructed by a Congress

Workers ask govt to clear its stand

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 22

RTC workers in all bus depots have enquired about the government's stand on their joining work while involving their agitation programmes on Friday.

They have been financially hit by the long strike during which they have earned nothing and seem to have made up their minds to resume work whenever the management allows them. The main point of discussion in all depots is what stand the government will take.

government. If a mistake was made in the Congress regime, why doesn't the TRS government order a probe and take action, he asked.

Mr Prabhakar said he has made a complaint to investigation agencies about corruption in the Mid Manair dam.

orders a probe, he will produce evidence of corruption.

Food distribution was organised at Sattupalli depot and workers demanded that the state government allow them to resume work without attaching any preconditions. The government employees came to the Khammam bus depot and expressed their solidarity on the demand of allowing them to join without conditions. N. Kesav, a driver in Khammam said that the government must respond to their decision to end the strike. "There is no question of winner or loser in this fight," he said.

■ PRABHAKAR said that he has made a complaint to investigation agencies about corruption in the Mid Manair dam.

orders a probe, he will produce evidence of corruption.

CAN'T PRIVATISE MORE THAN 50% ROUTES, SAYS HC

From Page 1

When the bench asked Advocate General BS Prasad to file a counter-affidavit clarifying this, he undertook that the process would be followed strictly in accordance with the MV act provisions.

On the petitioner's apprehension that workers would be axed alongside the privatising of RTC routes, the bench observed that the apprehensions were misplaced and unjustified.

"The provisions of Chapter V and Chapter VI of the MV Act will have to be kept in mind," the bench said. "Therefore, at best, the state would be justified in bringing in private sector players only to the extent of 50 per cent but not beyond."

The bench was not inclined to suspend the order for 10 days so that it could be challenged before the Supreme Court.

RTC JAC DECIDES TO CONTINUE STRIKE

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

The Joint Action Committee of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation workers' unions on Friday announced that the strike by employees will continue if the state government does not respond positively to their decision of joining duties unconditionally.

The announcement was made after JAC leaders held a meeting with various trade unions at the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station here on Friday.

Briefing media after the meeting, JAC convener Ashwathama Reddy said none of the workers were allowed to join duty by the management of the RTC though a number of employees had been queuing up before depots across the state since the last two days. As a result, he said, they will continue their strike with workers holding rallies under the slogan of 'Save RTC' on Saturday. RTC JAC co-convenor Raji Reddy accused CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao of having no intention to resolve the issue.

Now, VHR in race for PCC chief post

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

The race for the TPCC president post is getting spicier by the day with many throwing in their hat. The latest in the fray is former MP, V Hanumantha Rao (VHR), who like MP Komatireddy Venkata Reddy and legislator Jagga Reddy, came out openly seeking the post. Speaking to the media here on Friday, Hanumantha Rao said "age is not criteria for the PCC President post. Sheila Dikshit, was all of 82 years, when she was appointed Delhi PCC Chief. Experience and strength are more important and I have both".

Asserting that he was a staunch Congress loyalist, VHR said he will be with the party till his last breath. He said that like in 1972 when Indira Gandhi gave a slogan 'Justice to weaker sections', now Sonia Gandhi should give importance to weaker sections.

Mr Rao said that he enjoys tremendous goodwill among the people and would follow directions of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

He said that in order to remove K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) from power, the State Congress should be headed by a BC leader. He said it was time Congress leaders strive to bring the party to power and give a thanksgiving gift to Sonia Gandhi, who was instrumental in creation of Telangana State. He said he was ready to shoulder the responsibility and as TPCC President, he would endeavour to unseat KCR from the seat and ensure a Congress rule. "Bringing the party to power is important.



■ I have experience and strength to become TPCC president. Age is not a criteria, to bring Congress into power is important. Will meet Sonia Gandhi soon and request her for TPCC president post."

V. HANUMANTHA RAO, Congress leader

■ HANUMANTHA RAO said that like in 1972 when Indira Gandhi gave a slogan 'Justice to weaker sections', now Sonia Gandhi should give importance to the weaker sections. The Congress leader also said that he enjoys tremendous goodwill among the people.

Who will be the Chief Minister is the prerogative of the party high command," he said.

Hanumantha Rao said that he will meet Sonia Gandhi soon and urge her to make him the next TPCC president.

It smells like rotting carcasses

From Page 1

This stench and attitude, they say, continues to pervade despite principal secretary Arvind Kumar directing the concessionaire of Jawaharnagar dumpyard to take measures to reduce the stench emanating from the dump and creating an inconvenience to the neighbourhood.

The air smells like a combination of rotting carcasses, burning rubber and ammonia and stays for hours. Depending on the wind, it drifts in different directions.

This stench has been persistent for the last four years.

It has forced residents to drape themselves in scarves, not because of the cold but to keep away the stench.

Residents are convinced that the stench has only two possible sources of origin — the drying Kapra lake or the massive dump yard at Jawaharnagar, which hosts the city's refuse. Officials suggested that the smell could be the rotting lakebed of the Kapra lake which has been de-watered for Mission Kakatiya.

Costly liquor in AP from today as excise goes up

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

The state government has decided to levy additional retail excise tax on issue price of Indian made foreign liquor, foreign liquor, beer, wine and ready to drink varieties supplied by the wholesale IMFL depots to the licensees of bars at flat rate with effect from Saturday in

■ READY TO drink all ranges flat rate includes ₹60 for 250/275 ml.

the state. The state government issued G.O. MS No. 471 dated 22-11-2019. Accordingly, IMFL flat rate includes: ₹30 for 60/90 ml, ₹60 for 180 ml, ₹120 for 375 ml, ₹240 for 750 ml, ₹300 for 1,000 ml and ₹750 for

2,000 ml. Foreign liquor flat rate includes: ₹30 for 50/60 ml, ₹60 for 200/275 ml, ₹120 for 330 to 500 ml, ₹240 for 700/750 ml and ₹750 for 1,500/2,000 ml.

Beer of all ranges flat rate includes: ₹30 for 330 ml, ₹30 for 500 ml, ₹60 for 650 ml, ₹3,000 for 30,000 ml and ₹6,000 for 50,000 ml.

Ready to drink all ranges flat rate includes ₹60 for 250/275 ml.

Jagan increases licence fee for bars

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

The state government on Friday announced hefty license fee hikes for setting up of bars and micro breweries across the State.

According to the revised policy, that was issued through a GO, a micro brewery or a bar in a 3-star hotel has to pay ₹1.5 crore per annum as license fee and non-refundable registration charge.

For bars in areas having less than 50,000 population, the annual license fee and non-refundable registration has been fixed at ₹25 lakh, while for localities with population from 50,001 to five lakh it will be ₹50 lakh and for those with over five lakh population, the fee will be ₹75 lakh. Renewal of license for the second year will be with a 10 percent enhancement from the first year's amount.

The Commissioner of

■ BUSINESS HOURS will be from 11 am to 10 pm in respect of bars other than 3-Star and above hotels with food supply up to 11pm.

Prohibition & Excise will fix the number of bars in each of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) like Municipal Corporation, Municipality and Nagar Panchayats, duly reducing

the existing number by 40 per cent. In case only one bar exists in a ULB, the number will be retained. The number of bars in respect of 3-Star and above hotels and micro breweries existing in the ULB shall be excluded from the existing number of bars and the remaining ones will be reduced by 40pc.

The licence period shall be two years from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. In case of more than one applicant in a notified

area, draw of lots by the respective district collectors will decide the eventual licensee. The business hours will be from 11am to 10 pm in respect of bars other than 3-Star and above hotels and food supply up to 11pm. For star hotels, the business hours shall be from 11am to 11pm and food supply up to 12 midnight.

Another GO was also issued cancelling the existing licenses of bars across the State.



Big charge

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury attacked the Centre over disinvestment of PSUs, accusing it of pursuing privatisation to ‘pamper’ some private players



Not interested in politics over water issue

— Arvind Kejriwal
Delhi Chief Minister

SHORT TAKES

JAPANESE STUDENT FOUND DEAD

Guwahati, Nov. 22: A Japanese student on an exchange programme at IIT-Guwahati has been found dead inside a hostel room, police said. The body of the student, identified as that of Kota Onoda (22) was found hanging from the ventilator of a bathroom in Lohit hostel at 3.30 pm on Thursday, a spokesperson of IIT-Guwahati said.

After receiving information, a police team reached the spot and recovered the body.

The body has been sent for post-mortem examination to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital and the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi has been informed about it, the spokesperson said. Onoda, a masters programme student at Gifu University in Japan, was doing internship in the Bio-Sciences and Bio-Engineering department of IIT-Guwahati for a semester, as part of the exchange programme.

His internship was scheduled to end on November 30. A delegation of Gifu University that was in Guwahati on Thursday and the Ministry of External Affairs were also informed by the IIT authorities about the incident.

BABY INJURED IN HOSPITAL FIRE, DEAD

Mumbai, Nov. 22: A two-month-old boy, who had sustained severe injuries in a fire in the intensive care unit of a municipal hospital here, died of cardiac arrest in the early hours of Friday, a civic official said.

Prince Rajbhar sustained serious burn injuries in the fire at the KEM Hospital on November 6, after which, his left arm was amputated, the official said.

“Prince was put on maximum ventilator support and his condition deteriorated on Thursday night. He suffered a cardiac arrest at 2.30 am on Friday, and could not be revived,” the official said.

The baby suffered from a congenital heart ailment, and was brought to the city from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh by his financially weak parents for better treatment, the official said.

Prince’s father Pannilal Rajbhar has demanded that a post-mortem be performed on his son at government-run J J Hospital.

Rajbhar has written a letter to Maharashtra Governor B.S. Koshiyari, alleging the civic hospital had failed to provide proper treatment to his son. In the letter, a copy of which was sent to the dean of KEM Hospital, Rajbhar has alleged the BMC-run medical facility does not have fire safety clearances and is also not audited by the fire department.

He alleged that KEM staff and doctors were not given proper fire safety training. Prince was not provided super-speciality treatment as he was poor, Rajbhar claimed.

Up in arms



Students Federation of India activists raise slogans during their protest demanding stern action against their teachers over the death of a 10-year-old girl after being bitten by a snake in Wayanad on Friday. Amid mounting protests, the Kerala government on Friday suspended the principal and vice-principal of the school where a 10-year-old girl had died, as students hit the streets vowing not to enter their classrooms till justice was delivered to their schoolmate.

— PTI

BJP chapter over for us: Raut

Even if Lord Indra’s throne is offered, we won’t take it, Sena tells BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Friday took at a jibe at erstwhile ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stating that his party would not side with the Amit Shah-led party now, even if it offered Lord Indra’s throne.

The Sena MP also reiterated that his party, Chief Minister would rule Maharashtra for the next five years.

“Shiv Sena has decided to make its own leader the CM and Maharashtra would get a strong leadership very soon,” he said while denying reports that Sena was offered the CM’s post by the BJP.

On the reports of BJP giving up the chief minister’s position for the Sena, Raut said, “We did not get any proposal from the BJP and the time for it is already over.”

He also slammed the BJP for trying to influence Maharashtra’s politics from Delhi. Hitting out at the ‘big leaders’ in Delhi — an apparent dig at the BJP leadership, Raut said that they would not be able to change the political horoscope of Maharashtra as it is the state of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Raut was hopeful that an alternate government will soon be formed. “President’s Rule is currently on and there is a procedure which has to be completed,” he said.

Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said, “We have formed a consensus on most points. Only a few points remain to be concluded.”

Earlier in the day, Thackeray also met party legislators and told them the process to form a Sena-led dispensation in the state was in the final stages. He instructed the MLAs to stay together in Mumbai as they may be required any time, a party MLA said.

President’s Rule was imposed in Maharashtra on November 12 after the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP failed to form the government. BJP and Sena fought the election as allies and managed to win a comfortable majority of 161 seats, bagging 105 and 56 seats respectively. However, Thackeray refused to support the BJP-led government as he did not get an assurance on sharing the CM’s post for two and a half years. The Congress and the NCP, which are pre-poll allies, won 44 and 54 seats respectively.

Together, Sena, Congress and NCP have 154 MLAs and with support of independents, the alliance can muster the support of 170 MLAs in the House.

creating ripples in the political and official circles here.

The retired IAS officer is heard pleading for a ‘long kiss’ over phone from the woman accused in the honey-trap scam, which came to light a couple of months ago after police raided houses of four women in Bhopal and Indore and seized laptops, mobile phones and pen



@PawarSpeaks Sahab has finally outwitted the so-called Chanakya of Indian politics. The throne of Delhi could not make Maharashtra bow down before it. Jai Maharashtra.

NAWAB MALIK,
NCP’s chief spokesperson

Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray along with his wife Rashmi Thackeray leaves BMC headquarters after felicitating Mumbai’s newly elected mayor Kishori Pednekar in Mumbai.

— PTI

‘Phone sex’ audio surfaces in MP

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 22

An audio has surfaced in Madhya Pradesh on Friday in which a retired

babu, considered very influential during the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, is heard having “phone sex” with a woman accused in the honey-trap scandal,

drives believed to be containing videos of officers and politicians in compromising positions, screen shots of sex chats, and audios involving sleaze talks. The ex-bureaucrat is heard telling the woman that he was calling from Chennai and expressed desire to ‘see you naked’. They are then heard having phone sex. The audio has surfaced barely four

days after appearance of a video of a former minister in the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, seen in a compromising position with the woman, went viral.

The former minister was earlier arrested for his alleged link to Vyapam scam involving irregularities in admission to various medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh.

■ THE AUDIO has surfaced barely four days after appearance of a video of a former minister in the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, seen in a compromising position with the woman, went viral.

J&K situation not as depicted by Shah: Yashwant

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 22

Former external affairs minister, Yashwant Sinha, on Friday said that the situation on the ground in the Kashmir Valley appears to be quite in contrast to what home minister, Amit Shah, claimed on the floor of Parliament earlier this week.

Sinha, who is in the Valley at the head of a pressure group which calls itself Concerned Citizens Group, said, “It appears the Kashmir picture presented in Parliament is totally different from the ground reality.”

He said that when he and other members of the team were on their way to the hotel from the Srinagar airport, they saw all the shops were closed and only a few vendors were selling vegetables at some places.

“We feel that the entire chain on which the Kashmir economy is dependent stands disrupted,” he said.

Sinha and former chief information commissioner and former chairman of national minorities commission, Wajahat Habibullah, said that the group is in the Valley to assess the actual ground situation.

The other members of the group on the Valley’s four day visit are Kapil Kak, retired Air Vice-Marshal, Bharat Bhushan, senior journalist and former editor of Catchnews, and Sushobha Barve, executive programme director of Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation.

Habibullah said that suspension of democratic liberties of people is a matter of great concern for him.

“Since we just arrived, we are yet to get the actual mood on ground. But I believe the democratic liberties of people must not be muzzled. If democratic rights are denied to the people, it is a big concern,” he said.

Sinha had tried to reach out to the people of the valley in September but he was detained at the Srinagar airport for more than five hours before

■ THE FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER AND FORMER chief information commissioner and former chairman of national minorities commission, Wajahat Habibullah, said that the group is in the Valley to assess the actual ground situation.

being sent back to Delhi. However, the three other members of the Concerned Citizens Group including Kak, Bhushan and Barve were were allowed to enter the city and meet the people. Habibullah was in the group then but had visited the valley on his own a couple of weeks before.

Recalling the September 19 incident, Sinha said, “I tried to visit Srinagar then but I was not allowed by the centre and the J&K administration. We have been allowed to visit Srinagar now. During the next four days, we will do an independent assessment of the situation and see the nature of economic losses suffered by farmers and industrialists and how the average Kashmiri has suffered.”

He, however, also said that Kashmir has been under the grip of uncertainty since August 5 when Article 370 was abrogated and J&K split into two union territories. “We will assess the actual ground situation and present it to the people of India,” he said.

He said that the group would try to seek permission from the authorities for meeting various political leaders of the Valley who have been detained.

He said that he spoke to National Conference president, Farooq Abdullah, over the phone and it appeared he was high in spirits. “We will try to meet him in person soon,” Sinha said.

Sinha added, “Political leaders, including three former chief ministers, continue to be in detention since August 5. How can you say that the situation is normal?”

CONG: BJP GOT MONEY FROM FIRM UNDER LENS FOR ‘TERROR FUNDING’

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

The Congress on Friday launched a scathing attack on the BJP, accusing it of receiving donation from a company accused of buying properties from a Dawood Ibrahim aide.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala cited a media report claiming that the saffron party took a large donation from a firm currently under investigation by the ED for carrying out transactions with and buying properties from the late Iqbal Mirchi, an accused in the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts and a close aide of Dawood.

Surjewala tweeted, “BJP’s donation saga gets murkier — #Electoral Bond Scam to donations from accused of ‘terror funding’! Why

did BJP receive crores in donation from a Co. accused of buying properties of Iqbal Mirchi, a Dawood Ibrahim aide? Is this not ‘treason’ Amit Shah?”

A report on a news website claimed that the BJP took a large sum of money from RKW Developers Ltd, the company which the ED is probing for its alleged connection with Mirchi.

The report has cited the BJP’s filings with the EC as the source of this information.

It said the RKW donated ₹10 crore to the saffron party in 2014-15. The report also said that a company, Sunblink Real Estate, facing the ED charges of buying Mirchi’s properties, is linked via a common directorship to another company, which made ₹2-crore donation to the BJP.

CRPF JAWAN INJURED IN NAXAL IED BLAST, 2 TRIBAL LABOURERS HURT

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 22

A CRPF jawan was on Friday injured when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Maoists, in the forested village of Tarrem under Basaguda police station in Chhattisgarh’s south Bastar district of Bijapur.

The incident occurred when jawans of 168th battalion of CRPF were on an area-domination exercise, Bastar

range inspector general of police P. Sunderaj said.

The injured jawan, identified as Munna Kumar, was airlifted to Raipur in Chhattisgarh for medical treatment.

In another incident, two tribal labourers, engaged in laying of a road, were injured when Maoists triggered an IED blast in the forested village of Pupal under Barsur police station in south Bastar district. The two injured workers were admitted in the hospital.

SOFT | POWER

■ A slew of cultural exchanges planned; naval ship to dock at Chinese ports

70 ways to celebrate India-China ties

SRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

India will send a “mid-level tri-service delegation of the Indian armed forces” to China, with naval ships too set to dock at Chinese ports and the two nations will also host a series of cultural exchanges relating to Buddhism and the visit of ancient Chinese Buddhist traveller Hiuen Tsang

(known as Xuanzang in China).

On Friday, a total of 70 measures to be taken jointly by the two Asian giants were announced to celebrate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. These will be undertaken in 2020-21.

Reiterating what was announced at the end of the two-day informal summit last month between Chinese President, Xi

Jinping, and Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, at Mamallapuram near Chennai, the MEA also said the two countries would engage “in cooperative projects in studying ancient maritime links between India and China through the establishment of sister-state relations between Tamil Nadu and Fujian province, and exploring the possibility of establishing an academy to study links between

Tamil Nadu and the Fujian province.”

“The Indian side will send its naval ships to visit China. A mid-level tri-service delegation of the Indian armed forces will visit China,” the MEA announced on Friday.

The two sides will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the completion of an Indian-style Buddha Hall in the White Horse Temple in Luoyang.

A Chinese Buddhist dele-

gation will visit India and hold prayer activities in Xuanzang Memorial Hall in Nalanda. The Chinese side will invite an Indian Buddhist delegation to attend the celebrations of the Bathing the Buddha Festival in China, and jointly pray for world peace and friendship between our two peoples,” the MEA said.

“The Chinese side will hold an international Xuanzang forum in China,

advancing Xuanzang-related studies,” it added.

Ancient Chinese Buddhist traveller, Hiuen Tsang (known as Xuanzang in China), visited India in the 7th century AD during the reign of King Harshavardhana in northern India and the Pallava dynasty in southern India.

There will be other cultural exchanges, too, including in the field of martial arts.

Property market set for modest lift from govt measures

McDonald's in a soup for teasing veggie dishes



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,359.41	-0.53
Nifty 50	11,914.40	-0.45
S&P 500	3,103.14	-0.01
Dollar (₹)	71.94	-0.07
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.82	-0.44
Euro (₹)	79.33	-0.33
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	37,968▲15	+0.04
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	\$63.16	-0.81
IN 10-Yr bond yield	+6.495	-0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	+1.759	-0.01

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Muthoot Finance to buy IDBI AMC, foray into MF biz

Muthoot Finance said it will acquire IDBI Asset Management for Rs 215 crore to enter the mutual fund space. The deal is expected to be completed by February-end 2020, the firm said. Promoted by IDBI Bank in 2010, IDBI Mutual Fund is one of the profit making AMCs in the space with an asset base of over Rs 5,300 crore and it runs 22 schemes.

Forex reserves at new high of \$448.2 billion



Forex reserves rose by \$441 million to a fresh all-time high of \$448.249 billion in the week to Nov. 15 on an increase in core currency assets, RBI data showed. The reserves had increased by \$1.71 billion to \$447.808 billion in the previous reporting week. The foreign currency assets increased by \$643 million to \$416.472 billion in the week ended Nov. 15.

CSB Bank IPO fully subscribed on Day 1

Kerala-based CSB Bank's initial public offering was fully subscribed on the first day of bidding on Friday, with the retail portion subscribed 5.6 times. The issue received bids for 1,20,87,450 shares against the total issue size of 1,15,54,987 shares, reflecting 1.05 times subscription. The non-institutional investor category was subscribed 10 per cent.

BSNL vendors seek DoT help on ₹1.6K-cr dues

A clutch of Indian vendors of BSNL sought the telecom department's (DoT) intervention for release of outstanding dues of nearly Rs 1,600 crore pertaining to Bharat Net II project. The companies that have approached the DoT flagging their concerns on pending dues include Sterlite, Tejas, Paramount Wires & Cables, Aksh Optifibre and Finolex, among others.

Printed & Published by T Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T.Venkataram Reddy, RNI Reg No.APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

■ Rajiv Lall, Kannan, Venkatesh to advise IOB ex-chief Panel set up to help DHFL administrator

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, NOV. 22

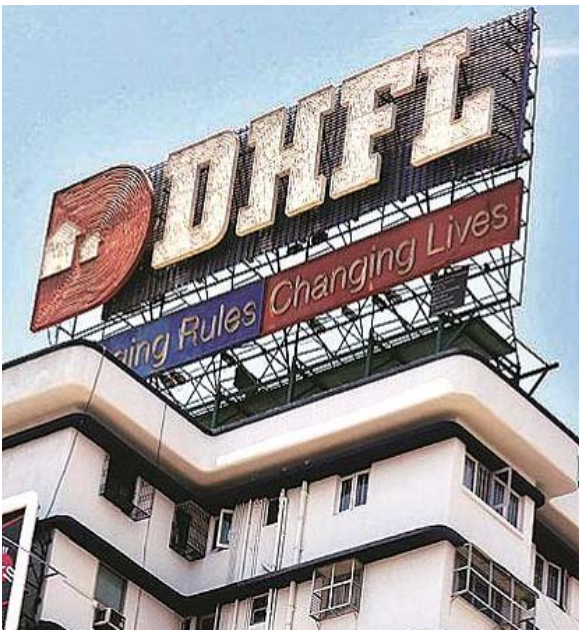
After superseding the board of debt laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) and appointing an administrator, the central bank on Friday appointed an advisory committee to assist the administrator in discharge of his duties, apparently to speed up the resolution and recovery process.

The debt-ridden company owes close to Rs 84,000 crore to the country's financial system.

The members of the Advisory Committee are Rajiv Lall, Non-executive Chairman of IDFC First Bank Ltd, N S Kannan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance and NS Venkatesh, Chief Executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India.

"The Reserve Bank, in exercise of powers conferred under section 45 IE 5(a) of the RBI Act 1934, has today constituted a three-member Advisory Committee to assist the Administrator of DHFL in discharge of his duties," the central bank said.

"It may also be mentioned that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insol-



olvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019 provide for the concerned financial sector regulator appointing a Committee of Advisors to advise the Administrator in the operations of the financial service provider during the corporate insolvency resolution process," said the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI, on November 20

had superseded the board of directors of DHFL owing to governance concerns and defaults by the mortgage lender in meeting various payment obligations, and appointed R Subramaniakumar, former Managing Director of Indian Overseas Bank, as the company Administrator. The central bank had also said that it would shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the

Insolvency and Bankruptcy rules.

Meanwhile, according to a Bloomberg report, the surprise seizure of DHFL will not end the woes of the country's lenders, as they are faced with the risk of heavy write-offs if DHFL is declared a fraudulent account. That's because the RBI requires banks to provision fully for their entire exposure over four quarters if they decide a loan account involves fraud.

The decision on DHFL will be based on a final report by the international accountancy firm KPMG on the firm's lending practices, which is due to be submitted soon, according to bankers with knowledge of the matter. An interim KPMG study of DHFL's books earlier this year cited anomalies including Rs 16,500 crore of loans to entities connected to the company's founders, equivalent to just under half of the banks' total exposure of Rs 38,000 crore to the non-banking finance company.

Shares of DHFL were locked in the 5 per cent upper circuit on Friday after a report said that Adani Group had shown interest in acquiring the company.

‘Compliances leaving no time to run business’

Mumbai, Nov 22: The government and regulators need to get more objective about governance and compliance if the real objective is making doing business easier, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw on Friday said.

The Biocon chief also flagged the deepening trust deficit between government and the industry saying there is an increasing tendency to criminalise every businessman.

"I think corporate governance needs to be looked at objectively as there is a tendency towards over-regulation now. We take extreme views on checks and balances," Shaw told a corporate governance summit organised by former Sebi chairman M Damodaran.

The situation has reached such a level that corporate leaders are forced to spend more time in meeting compliances than running their businesses, she averred.

"Our regulations have actually fallen into the realm of over-regulation. I think we are not really objective about the kind of regulations that we want. We take extreme views to plug every loophole possible. But I don't think that's the way forward. We need more time for our businesses than attending to compliances," Shaw said.



Kiran Mazumdar

Citing the example of her own company Biocon, Shaw said she had "ticked onto as many as 1,567 compliance boxes. This is over-burdening any business. Then we try to criminalise every non-compliance. This is now the trend."

The whole regulatory framework that we have today is something that needs to be objectively looked at, she said.

There is a need to develop more trust between the regulator and the regulated entities and also to find newer and more effective ways to nudge people to adopt good corporate governance, she said.

"Today you are criminalising everything, you are becoming too extreme. Is it fair? We need to trust each other more. Today everybody thinks the other is a crook, especially the regulator/government, and fix everyone else," she said.

— PTI

IT stocks fall on US work visa worries

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 22

Reports of changes in US work visa requirements aimed at protecting American workers led to a sharp fall in frontline IT stocks. The BSE IT index fell 2.21 per cent.

The top losers on the BSE were Infosys (-2.89 per cent) and TCS (-2.20 per cent). Other frontline losers included Wipro (-1.78 per cent), HCL Tech (-1.82 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (-1.35 per cent).

Among the tier-two IT companies, Mphasis (-3.59 per cent), Hexaware (-1.81 per cent), Cyient (-1.59 per cent) and Tata Elxsi (-1.30 per cent) also saw declines in their share price.

About 23 per cent of new petitions seeking H-1B visas for the US were denied in fiscal year 2019, according to the external affairs ministry.

The H-1B visa in the US allows employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.

The duration of stay is three years, extendable to six years, after which the visa holder may need to reapply.

According to reports, the White House Office of Management and Budget is proposing to revise the definition of "specialty occupation" to increase focus on obtaining the best and brightest foreign nationals via the H-1B program, and may see the

introduction of additional requirements to ensure employers pay appropriate wages to H-1B visa holders.

The sharp fall in the IT stocks also comes at a time when, the sector's outlook has changed since reporting its second quarter performance.

After in-line results for the IT sector during July-September quarter, the outlook for some of the key verticals in this sector like BFSI, retail and manufacturing appeared weak, according to analysts.

"September 2019 quarter results for our coverage companies were broadly in line with expectations. Growth in the financial services vertical moderated, with companies reiterating near-term uncertainty due to slow decision-making at European banking clients and capital markets clients in the US," said Manik Taneja and Devanshu Bansal, analyst, Emkay Global Financial Services.

"The commentary on BFSI, specifically for capital-market clients in the US and large banking clients in Europe, remained weak. The volatility in Retail and Manufacturing verticals is expected to continue in the near term. These three verticals form about 50-60 per cent of sales for IT services sector," analysts from Emkay Global said.

Nearly a fourth of white goods sales seen going online by 2023

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 22

The share of consumer durable sales through the online channel is expected to double in the next three years. Festive season sales have heavily contributed to the growth in the market share from 3 per cent to 11 per cent between 2013 and 2019.

In 2013, online channel used to contribute just 3 per cent to the consumer durable sales and this has multiplied manifold to 11 per cent in 2019. Going ahead, by 2023, the share is expected to touch 22 per cent. However, still it will be well below the global average of 40 per cent, finds brokerage Emkay Global Financial Services.

Online white goods purchases are seeing a faster-than-expected rise on high affordability of smart-phones along with increased use of mobile, internet, EMI schemes, hefty discounts, widening private-label product portfolios and lower product delivery lead times.

Private label products are available online at 30 per cent discount to the prices of established brands. These established brands are also selling the goods 7-15 per cent cheaper online compared to offline with marginal product differentiation.

The increasing price differential between online and offline is enticing consumers to move toward e-

Domestic value additions to go up to 54%

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 22

The domestic value addition of appliances and consumer electronic (ACE) products like air-conditioners, audio, refrigerators, TVs, and washing machines is likely to grow to 54 per cent by FY25, finds an industry body.

The Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (Ceama) finds that domestic value addition stood at 34 per cent in FY19.

With the rise in purchase of the products and favourable government initiatives like 'Make in India' and the National Policy on Electronics, India can transform itself into a global consumer electronics manufacturing hub, the Ceama says

"Indian consumers are becoming more aware and aspirational. They now want to own best quality appliances and electronics. This has given a boost and offers immense growth opportunities to the ACE sector. It can become one of the leading employment generators in the country. The industry has capabilities to become one of the biggest exporters as well. It is imperative that there is an



enhanced public-private collaboration to further grow the sector," Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, said.

The overall market size of the top five categories of appliances and consumer electronics is Rs 76,400 crore in FY19 and the market is estimated to grow at compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.7 per cent till FY25. Going ahead, the market is expected to see acceleration in growth ignited by surging rural consumption, reducing replacement cycles, increasing penetration of retail, a wide choice of brands and products at various price points.

commerce purchases as free delivery, installation and cash backs, along with Equated Monthly Installment schemes, are also available on the platform.

White goods sales through online platforms have moved up at a faster pace over the last two-three years. Emkay finds that Diwali sales have contributed significantly to the online sales growth,

growing by 56 per cent annually (CAGR) between 2016 and 2019. Both Amazon and Flipkart have been witnessing consumer durable sales surging multiple times every Diwali season. The recent success of brands such as MI and One Plus is forcing offline brands to increase their presence on online platforms.

The purchase by consumers in non-metro and tier-2 and tier-3 cities have gone up sharply this season. The number of women shoppers, purchase on EMI, credit and debit cards also have recorded growth.

Among consumer durables, television is the largest selling product, followed by microwave ovens, air conditioners and refrigerators.

Similarly, Amritsar's DPRs are just 8 per cent ready and it has received 8 per cent amount. Same is the case with Puri. Gaya has 15 per cent readiness in terms of DPRs and has received 15 per cent of the sanctioned amount. Dwaraka and Warangal too are lagging behind with respect to DPRs and getting funds.

Among some of the cities, Velankanni has received just 5% of the sanctioned amount, while its readiness with DPR is just 10%

which have made progress with the projects, Amravati has received 93 per cent of the sanctioned amount, Badami 90 per cent, Kancheepuram 85 per cent and Varanasi 85 per cent.

Originally the scheme was to be implemented within a time-frame of 4 years 3 months or up to March, 2019. The ministry, however, is confident that the remaining projects will be completed by December, 2019.

"Central, state and local governments have a collective responsibility to ensure that

Unilever, Henkel, Colgate eye Coty brands

PAMELA BARBAGLIA, ARNO SCHUETZE LONDON/FRANKFURT, NOV. 22

Consumer goods giants Unilever and Henkel and a series of buyout funds, including Advent and Cinven, are talking to US cosmetics maker Coty to submit bids for some of its most popular beauty brands, three sources told Reuters.

Coty, which has a market value of \$9 billion and is majority owned by German conglomerate JAB Holdings, is expected to kick off an auction process in December to find a new owner for a portfolio of professional hair and nail care brands, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The portfolio, which includes Wella, Clairol, GHD and OPI among others, is worth up to \$7 billion and has drawn interest from both industry players and financial investors, they said.

Colgate-Palmolive Co is among a number of consumer companies looking at add-on deals to grow their skin care units, the sources said.

New York-based Colgate Palmolive recently bought the skin care unit of France's Laboratoires Filorga Cosmétiques for 1.5 billion euros (\$1.66 billion). The company is expected to enter the race for Coty's brands, facing competition from rivals Unilever and Henkel as well as heavyweight investment funds.

The list of financial sponsors includes Advent, Blackstone, KKR, CVC Capital Partners and BC Partners.

One of the sources said Cinven was examining a possible joint bid for the brands.

Coty, Henkel, Colgate-Palmolive, Cinven, Advent, CVC and BC Partners declined to comment, while Unilever, Blackstone and KKR were not immediately available for comment.

Coty aims to complete the sale, which was announced last month, by the middle of 2020 and has hired Credit Suisse to handle discussions with bidders.

Bankers advising the prospective bidders estimate the portfolio could fetch 10 to 12 times its core earnings of roughly \$600 million, giving it a valuation of \$6 to \$7 billion, the sources said.

Coty's professional beauty unit, which primarily sells hair and nail care products to salons, accounts for about 21 per cent of its total revenue, with annual sales of about \$1.81 billion.

The unit, however, has seen falling sales in the last four quarters.

Coty also owns other cosmetic brands such as Rimmel and Max Factor as well as skin care firms Lancaster and Philosophy.

— Reuters

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 22

The Centre's Hriday scheme has been literally dragging on for the last five year. Of the 12 cities identified under the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana, launched in January 2015, only Ajmer has fully received the sanctioned amount. Some of the cities are not even fully ready with their detailed project reports, almost five years after the launch of the scheme.

The government had identified Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal for the Hriday scheme with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore with a focus on holistic development of heritage cities.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved 77 projects amounting to Rs 418.06 crore for all the 12 cities. The projects include development of water supply, sanitation, drainage, waste management,

approach roads, footpaths, street lights, tourist conveniences, electricity wiring, landscaping and such citizen services.

Of the 12 cities, only Ajmer has received 100 per cent of the sanctioned amount, as per the data from the ministry. Velankanni has received just 5 per cent of the sanctioned amount, while its readiness with detailed project reports (DPR) is just 10 per cent.

Similarly, Amritsar's DPRs are just 8 per cent ready and it has received 8 per cent amount. Same is the case with Puri. Gaya has 15 per cent readiness in terms of DPRs and has received 15 per cent of the sanctioned amount. Dwaraka and Warangal too are lagging behind with respect to DPRs and getting funds.

Among some of the cities, Velankanni has received just 5% of the sanctioned amount, while its readiness with DPR is just 10%

which have made progress with the projects, Amravati has received 93 per cent of the sanctioned amount, Badami 90 per cent, Kancheepuram 85 per cent and Varanasi 85 per cent.

Originally the scheme was to be implemented within a time-frame of 4 years 3 months or up to March, 2019. The ministry, however, is confident that the remaining projects will be completed by December, 2019.

"Central, state and local governments have a collective responsibility to ensure that

reports are submitted, sanctioned amount disbursed and projects are completed on time. While the state and local governments as well as other stakeholders have to submit their projects, the Centre also has to play a supervisory role to ensure that the projects are completed on time," said Iqbal Mulla, Chief Council, Global Tourism Council Trust.

The industry is of the view that the government should ensure faster implementation of its schemes and projects.



May peace prevail

US President Donald Trump hopes the release of two Western prisoners held hostage by Afghan Taliban could help put an end to the war in Afghanistan



China's attempts to influence Taiwan's democratic process are of concern

— Brent Christensen
US ambassador to Taiwan

BRIEF

Iraqi forces kill 8 in fresh clashes

Baghdad: Eight people died and at least 90 were wounded in renewed clashes in central Baghdad, in the most violent clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces in recent days, Iraqi officials said. Separately, one policeman was killed and six others wounded when an IED exploded in northeast Baghdad, security officials said. One person was killed when security forces hurled sound bombs at crowds of protesters on the strategic Sinak bridge late Thursday, security and hospital officials said. Earlier clashes had erupted on Baghdad's Rasheed Street.

Cousin Ana basks in Pope's glory

Bangkok: She got a chuckle out of 'Jorge' when she took her time translating his off-the-cuff Spanish for local priests and nuns to understand. Sister Ana Rosa Sivori has taken something of a star turn during her second cousin's visit to Thailand, assuming an unprecedented role for a woman as papal whisperer and translator, who doesn't seem fazed that her charge is Pope Francis. Usually papal aides are men, and they stay in the shadows, showing wallflower-like deference to the leader of the Catholic Church. Not so Sivori, who treats Francis with the respect owed a pope but nevertheless displays the confidence and chutzpah of a no-nonsense nun who has spent more than a half-century ministering to Thailand's faithful.

Netanyahu vows to fight back

Jerusalem: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's indictment is expected to sharpen the battle lines in Israel's already deadlocked political system and could test the loyalty of his right-wing allies. The serious corruption charges appear to have dashed already slim hopes for a unity government following September's elections, paving the way for an unprecedented repeat vote in March, which will be the third in less than a year. In an angry speech Netanyahu lashed out at investigators and vowed to fight on in the face of an "attempted coup." His main opponent, the centrist Blue and White party, called on him to "immediately resign" from all his Cabinet posts, citing a Supreme Court ruling that says indicted ministers cannot continue to hold office. Netanyahu also serves as minister of health, labour, diaspora affairs, and is acting minister of agriculture. He is not legally required to step down as prime minister, but Netanyahu faces heavy pressure to do so, and it is unclear whether an indicted politician could be given the mandate to form a new government. Netanyahu has already failed to form a majority coalition of 61 seats in the 120-seat Knesset after two hard-fought elections this year. Netanyahu was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust stemming from three long-running corruption cases. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Impeachment evidence rises

Inquiry finds proof beyond dispute

Washington, Nov. 22: After two weeks of riveting public hearings in the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, there is a mountain of evidence that is now beyond dispute.

Trump explicitly ordered US government officials to work with his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani on matters related to Ukraine, dependent on US to fend off Russian aggression. Trump pushed Ukraine to probe his political rivals, leaning on a discredited conspiracy theory his own advisers disputed. And both American and Ukrainian officials feared that Trump froze a much-needed package of mili-

■ The facts were confirmed by a dozen witnesses, mostly staid career government officials who served both Democratic and Republican administrations

tary aid until Kyiv announced it was launching those probes. Those facts were confirmed by a dozen witnesses, mostly staid career government officials who served both Democratic and Republican administrations. They relied on emails, text messages and contemporaneous notes to back up their recollections from the past year.

Their testimony paint a portrait of a president willing to leverage his powerful office to push a foreign government for personal political help. That alone has many Democrats on the brink of voting to impeach Trump before the end of the year, potentially pushing toward a trial in the Senate.

Yet the witness accounts left one prominent hole that offered a lifeline for Trump and his GOP allies. None of the witnesses could personally attest that Trump directly conditioned the release of the \$400 million in military aid on a Ukrainian announcement of investigations into ex-president Biden. — AP



People march during a nationwide strike called by students, unions and indigenous groups to protest against the government of Colombia's President Ivan Duque in Medellin, Colombia. — AFP

Colombians fill streets in wave of discontent

Bogota, Nov. 22: Hundreds of thousands of Colombians took to the streets of the capital Bogota amid a general strike to protest the policies of President Ivan Duque's right-wing government.

There were reports of clashes and arrests as trade unions, students, opposition parties and the South American country's indigenous organisations challenged the full gamut of Duque's economic, social and security policies. At night, a thunderous chorus of pot-banging, unusual in Colombia, took place in the cities of Cali and Medellin, and lasted for hours in Bogota.

"Colombia won on this historic day of citizen mobilisation," a state-

ment by organisers from the National Strike Committee said, as they requested an "immediate" meeting with Duque to discuss the protesters' array of complaints.

"We call on all citizens to be ready to take further action in the street if the national government continues to neglect our demands," they added.

Later in the day Duque announced that he had heard the protesters' demands, but did not respond to their request for direct dialogue.

"Today, Colombians spoke. We hear them. Social dialogue has been a main principle of this government and we need to deepen it with all sectors of society," he said. The protests

come amid social upheaval across South America, as a wave of unrest over the past two months has battered governments in Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador. The popularity of Duque's right-wing government — a key US ally — has been on the wane since his election 18 months ago, as it deals with hosting 1.4 million refugees from neighboring Venezuela's economic meltdown as well as the complex fallout of a 2016 peace deal with Farc rebels and rampant drug trafficking.

Troops were deployed in the capital and other cities to protect "strategic facilities," authorities said.

The UNHCR voiced concern over the deployment, — AFP

Ahead of polls, HK bans mask

Hong Kong, Nov. 22: A Hong Kong court on Friday suspended its decision to strike down a government ban on wearing face masks at protests, allowing police to enforce the decree for another week around keenly contested local elections in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The court had ruled on Monday that the ban, imposed in October under rarely used emergency powers to prevent anti-government protesters from hiding their identity, infringed on fundamental rights

more than was reasonably necessary. The government had appealed for a freeze on the ruling while it appeals to higher courts.

The High Court agreed on Friday to grant a one-week suspension in view of the highly exceptional circumstances that Hong Kong is currently facing. China's rubber-stamp parliament rebuked the court ruling this week, in what some interpreted as an indication it might overrule the verdict. Many Hong Kong protesters have defied the ban. — AP

SHARIF LOOKS TOTALLY FINE IN UK, SAYS IMRAN

SHAFQAT ALI | DC
ISLAMABAD, NOV. 22

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said he was informed that Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) supreme Nawaz Sharif could die any minute if he does not go abroad, but he looked totally fine with just a glance of the air ambulance. He said that he looked at the medical report of Nawaz Sharif which stated he has around 15 different diseases like heart problem, kidney, diabetes including platelets issues and other diseases.

Trump slams Iran on Internet ban

Washington, Nov. 22: President Donald Trump says Iran is so "unstable" that the Iranian government has shut down the internet so Iranians cannot disclose what he says is the "tremendous violence" occurring in the country.

Trump tweeted that the Iranian government wants "ZERO transparency"

and believes that by shutting down the internet the rest of the world will not find out about the "death and tragedy that the Iranian Regime is causing"

Recent violence was triggered by Iran's raising the minimum price for gasoline by 50%. The internet has been blocked since Saturday. — AP



Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
West Block 7, R.K. Puram, Sector-1, New Delhi

Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) invites sealed bids from interested applicants for licensing of 18 Guest Rooms of Twin Bedded and 15 Dormitories having 81 beds for a period of 3 years for Deendayal Hastkala Sankul (Trade Centre & Museum), Varanasi.

The pre bid meeting shall be held on 25th November, 2019 at 12:00 Noon at Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; West Block 7, R.K. Puram, Sector-1, New Delhi.

Last date for submission of bids is 12th December, 2019 not later than 12:00 Noon. Bidders are requested to refer RFP document for further instructions.

Interested applicants can download Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and request for Proposal (RFP) documents from CPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>. Copy of NIT and RFP documents will also be available on www.handicrafts.nic.in from 18th November, 2019.

davp 41103/11/0015/1920



Ministry of AYUSH
Government of India
DEPUTATION OF AYURVEDA, UNANI, HOMEOPATHY CHAIRS IN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

The Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India proposes to setup Chairs in Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy Systems of Medicine in different Universities abroad.

2. In continuation of the advertisement dated 7th June 2019 published in various Newspapers, applications for DEPUTATION OF AYURVEDA, UNANI, HOMEOPATHY CHAIRS IN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES are invited in prescribed format from eligible Indian candidates for the Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy Chair on full time fixed term contract basis initially for one year. One application is sufficient for all Chairs. The selected incumbent may be deputed to the respective Chair during the academic year 2019-2020/2020-21.

3. Format for Application, and detailed Guidelines for Chair, indicating objectives & deliverables of the AYUSH Chair, expected outcomes, eligibility criteria etc. are available at the Ministry's website <http://ayush.gov.in/>

4. The complete application for Ayurveda/Unani/Homeopathy Chairs should reach to Smt. Shiela Tirkey, Under Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India through proper channel on or before 5th December 2019 by 5.00 PM.

Address: AYUSH Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi - 110023 (India).

5. Those who have already applied for the post of Chair in response to the earlier advertisement dated 7th June 2019, and their application have been received through proper channel need not apply again.

6. Only eligible candidates will be called for interview. Second Class AC fare will be reimbursed.

davp 17201/11/0034/1920

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
ACMS incharge EDH/NR/JUDW, acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 146-Med/judw/19-20/T-01/San/Cleaning. Bidders will be able to submit their original bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website http://ireps.gov.in and can be seen/downloaded. The Tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net banking/Debit/Credit cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual/offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, cash deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.	
Name of Work	Comprehensive Mechanised cleaning and sanitation work of Railway Colony Jagadhri Workshop on monthly payment basis for two years.
Tender Type	Open E-Tender
Bidding system	Double Packet System
Pre-Bid Required	No
Pre Bid query till date	No
Date of Uploading Tender	21.11.2019
Bidding Start Date	15 days before opening of tender as per IREPS provisions
Tendering Section	Extra Divisional Hospital, Jagadhri Workshop
Advertisement Value	Rs.2,10,55,944/- Including all taxes GST etc.
Earnest Money	Rs.2,55,300/-
Tender Document cost	Rs.10,000/-
Validity of offer	90 days
Period of completion	24 months
Bidding end date	13.12.2019 up to 15:30 Hrs
Tender opening date & time	At any time thereafter 15:35 HRS on 13.12.2019 The tenderers are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserve the right to open the tender at any time after closing of tender.
No. 146-Med/judw/19-20/T-01/San/Cleaning. DL: 21.11.2019 3764/19	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
PUBLIC NOTICE No. 1/2019	
SALE OF LOCOMOTIVES "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"	
On behalf of President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway proposes to sell Broad Gauge Locomotives through e-auction in working condition on "As Is Where Is Basis".	

Details of Diesel Locomotives on Sale	The E-Auction of these Locomotives is expected to be held in the month of December, 2019 or January, 2020. These Locomotives are available at Tughlakabad as well as at Shakurbasti (in Delhi), Ludhiana and Lucknow Sheds of Northern Railway. The Locomotives are stabled in the Locomotive Sheds and are to be disposed in the present same condition. For physical appreciation of the bidders, a site visit is also being organized on 06.12.2019 at 11:00 hrs. at Tughlakabad Diesel Locomotive Shed. Attention of the interested Bidders is also invited to participate in the E-Auction. Interested Bidders may register at www.ireps.gov.in after obtaining the Class-III Digital Signature for participation and submission of bids in E-Auction. You may please also log on at www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in for relevant details of these Locomotives.
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A brief details of these Locos are given in the table below:

S. No.	Locomotive Type	Quantity (in Nos.)	Location	Age of Loco (Years)
1.	WDM 3A	35	Tughlakabad, Ludhiana & Lucknow	31 to 36
2.	WDM 3A	06	Ludhiana & Shakurbasti	36 to 39

Contact address: Office of the Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Northern Railway, Headquarter Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001. Contact No. : 9717630756

3765/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
The Chief Administrative Officer/Const-II/Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work :-	
Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/21410/WA/LKO Dated 22.11.2019
Full Name of work	Akbarpur-Bilgharhat Section (Zone-I): Earth work in formation including filling, cutting and compaction, supply and providing blanketing material on embankment, extension of existing minor bridges by RCC Box and construction of LHS by Air pushing methodology etc & other allied works between Akbarpur (Including) to Bilgharhat (Excluding) in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Barabanki-Akbarpur (161 km)" of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway
Approx. cost	Rs. 8339.90 lakhs
Completion period	24 (Twentyfour) Months
Earnest money amount	Rs. 43,20,000.00
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 25.11.2019 to 16.12.2019 upto 11:30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	16.12.2019 upto 11:30 hours. Tender document can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 30.11.2019 to 16.12.2019.
Date and time of opening of tender	16.12.2019 at 11:30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender) (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.
3763/2019	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited	
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in	
Type of tender	Open E-Tender
Tender Specification No.	256/ED-II/O&M-4268 dt. 21.11.2019
Tender Issuing Authority / Address	SE/HPS, A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala.
Short Description of Work	Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply and Supervision of erection, testing, commissioning of 1 No. 62.5 MVA 13.8/220V √3 KV Single Phase Generator Transformer for replacement of damaged Single phase 13.8 KV / 220 / √3 KV, 62.5 MVA, Generator Transformer, make NGEF of unit no:-2 (U-phase) S. No. 6800000148 YOM-1996 for RSD, Shahpurkandi Hydro-Electric Project.
Start Date for down loading of Specification/tender documents	21.11.2019
Last Date for down loading of Specification/tender documents	02.01.2020
Last date for Bid submission	03.01.2020 (11:00 am)
Bid Opening Date	03.01.2020 (11:30 am)
NOTE: 1. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in Newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in . 2. Tender Specification along with detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded from Web-site: https://pspcil.abcpocure.com . Details regarding e-tendering is available on Website: www.pspcl.in . All the prospective bidders are requested to get their digital signatures, register themselves on the Website: https://pspcil.abcpocure.com and get conversant with the process of on-line submission of tenders well in time so as to submit the tender by the due deadline. No request for extension in due date of tender opening on the above grounds shall be entertained. 3. One hard copy of the part-II of uploaded tender duly sealed shall be submitted by the bidders in this office immediately after due date and time of opening of tender.	
C-468/19 RO - C-7897	SE/ Hydrel Projects, PSPCL, Patiala.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. 09	
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under :-	
-Auction programme for Dec., 2019	
S. Depots/Divisions N.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th 5 th
1 Alambagh Lucknow	2 7 16 23 28
2 Shakurbasti	4 10 17 24 31
3 Jagadhari Workshop	5 12 19 26 31
4 Sr.DMM/Ambala	2 6 11 20 27
5 Sr.DMM/Moradabad	4 10 17 24 30
6 Sr.DMM/Firozpur	4 09 16 23 27
7 Sr.DMM/Lucknow	3 9 13 19 26
8 Sr.DMM/Delhi	3 9 13 19 26
1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in . 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. 3. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in . 4. ireps. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in'. No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2019-20 Dated 21.11.2019 3767/2019	
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CITY UNION BANK LTD.	
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. Phone: 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax: 0435-2431746	
PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE	
Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - Sent on 17-10-2019 by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due and the same was returned by all. Hence this.	
No.1) M/s. Sardar Enterprises, Shop No.1, Gurudwara, Hyderabad - 500 016. No.2) Mr. S. Bhanu Singh, S/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh, H.No.11-4-702, Redhills, Nampally, Hyderabad - 500 004. Also at:- Mr. S. Bhanu Singh, S/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh, H.No. 8-3-228/112/3 (Southern Portion), Rahmat Nagar, Yousufguda behind Gurudwar, Hyderabad - 500 045. No.3) Mrs. Aramjeet Kaur, W/o. Mr. S. Bhanu Singh, H.No.11-4-702, Redhills, Nampally, Hyderabad - 500 004. No.4) Mrs. Surjeet Kaur, W/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh, 15-3-137, Gouliguda, Chaman, Hyderabad - 500 012.	
Dear Sir/ Madam, Sub: Loan account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, Malkajigiri Branch in the name of M/s. Sardar Enterprises. The Bank issued Notice under the SARFAESI Act on 17-10-2019 calling upon all of you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.10,67,765/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Five Only) as on 14-10-2019 with further interest for 512120020001645 (SECURED OD WITHOUT DP) at 16.50% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) and with monthly rests from 15-10-2019 till the date of repayment. The Notice sent to you by Registered Post have been returned by all of you. Therefore, we hereby once again call upon you all to pay Rs.10,67,765/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Five Only) with further interest for 512120020001645 (SECURED OD WITHOUT DP) at 16.50% plus 2.00% penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from 15-10-2019 till the date of repayment within 60 days from the date of this Notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the Schedule hereunder. This Notice is published/issued without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank. Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mrs. Surjeet Kaur, W/o. Late Sardar Darsan Singh) Schedule - A An extent of 100 Sq.yds. or 83.60 Sq.Mts., of Site/Land and superstructure already existing (R.C.C. in Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor with built-up area of 2,492 Sq.ft.) and superstructure to be put up thereon in future situated at Municipal Door No. 8-3-228/112/3 (Southern Portion), situated at Rahmatnagar, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, A.P. Bounded by:- North - Portion of H.No.8-3-228/112/3, South - Road 18 feet, East - H.No.8-3-228/112/2, West - H.No.8-3-228/112/4. (Movables Hypothecated to our Bank) Schedule - B Goods, Produce, Merchandise, Stocks in all forms (Raw Materials, Semi-finished and finished goods) stored or to be stored in the form of Mobile Recharge Coupons, Mobile Spare Parts, Pagadies, Turban Cloth, Kitchen Items, Gas Cylinders (both Commercial and Domestic Usage), Building Materials such as Sand, Bricks, etc. Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 21-11-2019 Authorised Officer	



It's the future

Rahul Dravid believes the pink-ball game that attracted a lot of crowd to Eden Gardens is certainly the future of cricket

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 23 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Cricket

PAGE 11



Plenty of questions to be answered, and time will tell.

— Ravi Shastri, India coach is struck a note of caution on the pink ball's behaviour as the team made their Day/Night Test debut

SHORT TAKES

Hyd, Mum swap WI T20 matches

Mumbai: The BCCI on Friday has swapped the dates of India's T20 Internationals against West Indies with Mumbai hosting the third game on December 11 and the December 6 opener going to Hyderabad.

The Mumbai Police has expressed inability to provide security as the city would be on a high alert on December 6, the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition and also the "Mahaparinirvan Din" of B. R. Ambedkar. On the day, lakhs of Ambedkar followers throng the Chaityabhami memorial. "The BCCI has agreed to swap the dates of the Mumbai (December 6) and Hyderabad (December 11) games. We were able to carry out the swap after HCA president Mohammed Azharuddin agreed," as senior Mumbai Cricket Association official said.

Another source said that HCA President and former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin played an important role in this swap else the Mumbai Cricket Association was set to lose the match. — PTI

Warner plunders hapless Pakistan

Brisbane: Pakistan were left to rue a basic error from 16-year-old debutant Naseem Shah as Australia opener David Warner plundered the visitors' attack with a brilliant 151 not out on the second day of the first Test at the Gabba on Friday. Australia finished the day on 312 for the loss of just one wicket, 72 runs ahead of Pakistan's first innings total of 240 and already in the driving seat. Marnus Labuschagne was alongside Warner on 55, with the only wicket to fall that of Joe Burns, who made 97 before sweeping a Yasir Shah (1-101) delivery onto his stumps. Warner scored his first Test century since a year-long ban for ball-tampering, but only after a huge let-off when he was caught behind off a Naseem no-ball. The mercurial opener was on 56 at the time. — AFP

Brief scores: Pakistan 240 vs Australia 312/1 in 87 overs (David Warner 151 (n. o.), Joe Burns 97, Marnus Labuschagne 55 (n. o.), Yasir 1/101).

NEW TEST VENUE UNDER SCRUTINY

Mount Maunganui, New Zealand: The manner of Kane Williamson's dismissal and a blow to the head of Henry Nicholls put the maiden Test wicket at Mount Maunganui under scrutiny with three days to play in the first Test between New Zealand and England on Friday. In the first Test at the ground, the Bay Oval wicket showed signs of becoming unpredictable late on day two. Although honours appeared even after the first two days, England believe if the wicket continues to deteriorate then they are in the box seat. New Zealand go into day three on Saturday at 144 for four in reply to England's first innings 353, but with senior batsmen Williamson and Ross Taylor already dismissed.

Williamson had cruised to 51, reaching his half-century with a boundary off Sam Curran, but fell on the next delivery which unexpectedly reared sharply, forcing the New Zealand skipper to take evasive action and the ball was gloved to second slip. The dismissal even took Curran by surprise, but he saw it as a good omen.

New Zealand's senior bowler Tim Southee, who ignited the demise of the England middle and lower order, said Williamson's dismissal raised questions. — AFP

Brief scores: England 353 in 124 overs (R. Burns 52, J. Denly 74, B. Stokes 91, J. Buttler 43, Southee 4/88, de Grandhomme 2/41, Wagner 3/90) **vs New Zealand 144/4 in 51 overs** (K. Williamson 51, Curran 2/28).

Kohli & Co. sitting pretty in pink

Ishant takes five-for as India dominate Bangladesh

Kolkata, Nov. 22: Bangladesh won the toss and India everything else against a ball they are not acquainted with on the first day of their maiden Day/Night Test, the quality of contest spectacularly failing to match the manic pre-match hype.

First the Ishant Sharma-led Indian pace unit terrorised the visitors, bundling them out for 106 in just under 31 overs even before twilight set in. With two of their batsmen concussed, the mentally scarred Bangladesh attack then found itself at the receiving end of a masterclass from the Indian captain Virat Kohli, who remained unbeaten on 59 off 93 balls, as India reached 174 for three at stumps on the opening day.

The stodgy Cheteshwar Pujara, with two pink ball hundreds under his belt in first-class cricket, scored a chiselled 55 as India took a 68-run lead.



Bangladesh batsman Nayeem Hasan (left) is attended by India's physio. — AFP

SCORECARD

Bangladesh (1st innings): Shadman Islam c Saha b Yadav 29, Imrul Kayes lbw b Ishant 4, Mominul Haque c Rohit b Yadav 0, Mohammad Mithun b Yadav 0, Mushfiqur Rahim b Mohammed Shami 0, Mahmudullah c Saha b Ishant 6, Liton Das retired hurt 24, Nayeem Hasan c Pujara b Ishant 19, Ebadat Hossain b Ishant 1, Mehidy Hasan c Pujara b Ishant 8, Al-Amin Hossain (not out) 1, Abu Jayed c Pujara b Shami 0. **Extras (b-8, lb-6) 14. Total (in 30.3 overs) 106.**

FoW: 1-15, 2-17, 3-17, 4-26, 5-38, 6-60, 7-82, 8-98, 9-105. **Bowling:** Ishant 12-4-22-5, Yadav 7-2-29-3, Shami 10.3-2-36-2, Jadeja 1-0-5-0.

India (1st innings): M. Agarwal c Mehidy b Al-Amin 14, R. Sharma lbw b Ebadat 21, C. Pujara b Ebadat 55, V. Kohli (batting) 59, A. Rahane (batting) 23. **Extras (lb-1, w-1) 2. Total (for 3 wickets in 46 overs) 174.**

FoW: 1-26, 2-43, 3-137. **Bowling:** Al-Amin 14-3-49-1, Abu 12-3-40-0, Ebadat 12-1-61-2, Taijul 8-0-23-0.

It looks like the cricket loving Kolkata public will not have an opportunity to witness even three full days' action.

The city turned pink, the crowd responded to the brainchild of its favourite son Sourav Ganguly, who arranged a first-of-its-kind match in less than a month's time. However, the gulf in standards along with the singular lack of intent from

the visitors took some sheen away from the game.

Earlier, Ishant grabbed his first five-wicket haul on Indian soil after a good 12 years, finishing with 5 for 22 in 12 overs after a brave decision by opposition captain Mominul Haque to bat first on a seamer-friendly pitch. Umesh Yadav hurried the Bangladeshi batsmen for pace with 3 for 29 in 7

overs while Mohammed Shami was deadly bowling the cutters wide off the crease with figures of 2 for 36 in 10.3 overs. He also bowled two sharp bouncers, leaving Liton Das (24) and Nayeem Hasan (19) concussed.

Bangladesh lasted just 30.3 overs in their first innings with specialist spinners Ravindra Jadeja bowling a solitary over and R. Ashwin wasn't even required to roll his arms over.

Clearly the menacing Indian pace attack exposed Bangladeshi's lack of technical finesse as the 'Pink Ball Test' was agreed upon three days before their tour departure on the initiative of newly-elected BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. Bangladesh looked unsettled by the capacity crowd, something they have never encountered even in their home Tests and the world-class bowling made it even more difficult. — PTI

ALL 10 WICKETS BY INDIAN PACERS IN AN INNINGS AT HOME

Opponents	Venue	Season	Result
England	Mumbai	1981-82	Won
West Indies	Ahmedabad	1983-84	Lost
Sri Lanka	Kolkata	2017-18	Drawn
Bangladesh	Kolkata	2019-20	Ongoing

Stats: — S. PERVEZ QAISER

Ishant Sharma celebrates his five-for. — AFP



Had to work out right length to bowl: Ishant

Kolkata, Nov. 22: Ishant Sharma on Friday said the India pacers had to figure out the right length to bowl with pink ball after not getting any swing initially on day one of the second Test against Bangladesh here.

"It was a lot of different from red ball. Initially, we bowled the right length but did not get any swing. Then we realised at what length we have to hit and we discussed among ourselves and found out the right length to bowl with the pink ball," said Ishant.

Ishant, who has playing Test cricket for more than a decade, is part of the arguably India's best ever pace attack comprising

Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah, who is out of action due to injury.

After a long wait of 12 years, Ishant finally got a five-wicket haul (5/22) at home. "I'm enjoying my cricket right now. Initially I used to take more pressure on my performance, to take wickets and beat batsmen so many things. Now, I don't think much. Obviously, I've got experience now so I adjust my length according to the conditions quickly," Ishant said.

The 31-year-old does not feature in the ODI team since 2016, while his last T20I experience was in 2013. — PTI

Stars add colour to Eden

It was a party in pink at the 'City of Joy' as India began its tryst with Day/Night Tests in front of political bigwigs, galaxy of sports stars and a sell-out crowd, which ensured that Sourav Ganguly's promise of a spectacle lived up to its hype.

Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee rang the Eden Gardens Bell ahead of the toss.

Four days of the game are already sold out. Tickets are also reportedly up for sale in black market at five times their original prices, which start from ₹150. Spectators, a lot of them clad in pink, thronged the iconic stadium, making for the kind of carnival-like atmosphere that is now seen mostly in T20 games.

At the BC Roy Clubhouse, it was a pink carpet welcome for the invited dignitaries, which included the two greats of Indian sport — cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and Olympic hero Abhinav Bindra — among a host of others. Also present were



some former Bangladesh players, who played in their country's first Test.

Former Indian cricketers in attendance included Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, M o h a m m e d Azharuddin, Kris Srikkanth, Farokh Engineer and Chandu Borde. Sports stars from other sports who showed up at BCCI's invitation included Bindra, P. V. S. Sindhu, Sania Mirza and M. C. Mary Kom. — PTI

An overview of the packed Eden Gardens. — BCCI

P.V. Sindhu and Sania Mirza in the VIP box. — TWITTER



V.V.S. Laxman, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar relive their Eden memories. — BCCI

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina (left), with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Sourav Ganguly during the inauguration. — AP

Former India cricketers (from left) Mohammad Azharuddin, GR Viswanath, Dilip Vengsarkar take a lap of honour in a golf cart. — AFP

Kynan shines

State boy wins bronze in Nationals

New Delhi, Nov. 22: Former world champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu of Punjab won his 12th men's trap gold medal at the Shotgun Nationals while Rajasthan's Manavadiya Singh Rathore claimed his first in the junior section here on Friday.

Needing a high final round to remain in contention for the title, Manavjit missed one target for a round of 24, which put him in a shoot-off with seven other contenders for five final qualifying spots.

Kynan Chenai of Telengana, who eventually won bronze, was the only one to qualify directly, topping the qualification field with a score of 121 out of 125. Manavjit then shot 42 out of 50 targets in the final, to outgun state-mate Vishavdev Singh Sidhu, who ended with 41. Kynan was eliminated earlier in third place with 32 hits out of the first 40 targets.

The junior final followed and after an intense battle between Manavadiya and Punjab's Jungsher Singh Virk, who had also made it to the men's final, the boy from Rajasthan prevailed 45-44 to land his first national crown. His state-mate Vivaan Kapoor won bronze with a finals score of 35.

Both Manavjit and Manavadiya also won the respective team titles in their categories to bag double gold medals on the day. Manavjit teamed up with Jungsher and Namanveer Singh Brar for a total of 358, which put them two ahead of Rajasthan, giving Manavadiya the silver medal. The combination of Manavadiya, Vivaan and Aman Ali Elahi clinched the junior men's team title with a combined effort of 351, way ahead of Haryana who managed 345 for silver.



Kynan Chenai

— PTI

● Kynan Chenai of Telengana, who eventually won bronze, was the only one to qualify directly, topping the qualification field with a score of 121 out of 125.

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by
T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan
Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan
Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal
Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal
Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36,
S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.
Editor: Aditya Sinha

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