

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 30 NOVEMBER 2019

WEATHER



Max: 30.2°C
Min: 20°C
RH: 58%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning.
Max/Min 30/20°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Shudda Chaviti
till 6.09 pm
Star: Poorvashada till 8.16 am
Varjyam: 4.45 pm to 6.26 pm
Durmuhurtam: 6.33 am to 8.01 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HUIRI CALENDAR
Rabi-ul-Akher 2, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.24 am
Zohar: 12.15 pm
Asar: 4.04 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.57 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.29 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.52 AM
MOONSET TODAY 8.14 PM

COUNTER POINT



Get some onion dishes from the Parliament canteen, available at subsidised rates!

FASTag roll-out gets postponed

New Delhi: The government on Friday extended the mandatory implementation of FASTag for toll payments on national highways till December 15. The Union ministry of road transport and highways said it will now charge double-user fee from vehicles entering the FASTag lane on the national highways without FASTag from December 15, instead of December 1. — PTI

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Detained leaders hospitalised

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WORLD | 10

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SPORTS | 12

India take 2-0 lead vs Pakistan in Davis Cup



TABLOID

Cringe worthy dialogues continue



Vol. 82 No. 330 Established 1938 | 40 PAGES | ₹6.00

Pragya apologises for Godse remark

Says she didn't call Nathuram a deshbhakt; Moves privilege motion against Rahul

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 29

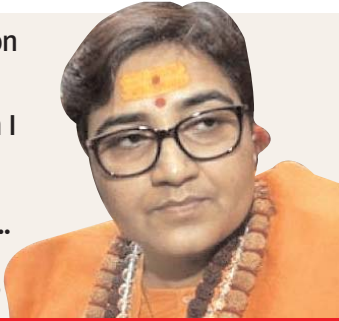
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Half an hour after the

Lok Sabha reconvened post lunch, Ms Thakur reached the House and read out the apology.

She began by saying she had faced a lot of attacks from her "enemies", but immediately Congress' Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Choudhury along

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Ms Thakur again pleaded that she wants to put across her views as earlier too she could not convey her views, but Speaker

Birla asked her to stick to the text. At this point, she said during the discussion on the SPG Bill on November 27 "I did not call Nathuram Godse a patriot and I did not even take his name. But still if it has hurt somebody, then I apologise while expressing my regret."

She again tried to say something beyond the text, but the Speaker turned off her mike. Her first apology was panned by Opposition parties for its reference to other issues, as they insisted on an unconditional apology. She also targeted Rahul Gandhi without naming him.

■ Page 7: Rahul stands by his tweet on Pragya

UDDHAV STAYS AAREY METRO CAR SHED WORK

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 29

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said the new government has decided to stay the construction of the metro car shed project in the city's green lung, Aarey Colony, after widespread protests last month over the cutting of trees there.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Thackeray said not a single leaf will be cut until further notice.

■ More reports on Page 7



Uddhav Thackeray

SUV overturns with 9 bunking students, 2 die

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

A joy ride planned by nine students taking a break from the excruciating preparations for a medical entrance test ended in tragedy, leaving two of them died, when the SUV they were travelling in met with a road accident at Rajendranagar in the wee hours on Friday. K. Tarun Kumar, 19 years, resident of Bowenpally (originally a native of Srikakulam), and D. Uday Shankar, 19, a native of Gulmal, Mahabubnagar district, were killed in the mishap.

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The Rajendranagar police, who were alerted, came to the spot, about 200 metres away from the police station, to investigate. Besides Tarun and Uday, who were found dead after sustained

severe multiple injuries, another student, Shashank, sustained critical injuries. The others escaped unhurt.

G. Suresh, inspector, Rajendranagar police, said that Hanumadesh Reddy, one of the students, was driving the vehicle. Tarun Kumar and Uday Shankar died on the spot. Shashank has been admitted to the Osmania General Hospital for treatment.

"At a curve near pillar #221, the driver could not control the speeding SUV and pulled to the left to escape hitting the median. The speeding vehicle turned turtle and got dragged on the road before it hit the left side footpath. The vehicle then rolled on the road and fell upside down," the inspector said.

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Analysts say the BJP may face a tough challenge from its opponent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which has formed a grand alliance with the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

The first phase is also crucial for the BJP as it won six of the 13 seats in the 2014 Assembly polls.

■ Infographic on Page 7

TTD member performs private homam in temple, violates rules

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 29

A suspected private homam held at TTD's ancient Kapilatheertham temple has created a flutter in Tirupati. The temple administration, which does not ordinarily allow private persons to organise any homam, reportedly allowed TTD Trust Board member Krishnamoorthy Vaithyanathan to perform Rudra Japa Homam.

Vaithyanathan had reportedly roped in around 60 *rituiks* (priests officiating yagnas) from different parts of the country and organised the private homam on



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Friday. The trust board member organised the private homam on the eve of the *Shastiabdhapoorthi* (a ceremony performed on the 60th birthday of a man) of his in-laws, sources said.

Outsiders, including devotees, were restricted from entering the premises where the homam was performed as it was sealed off with the help of TTD security guards. Only the trust board

member and his family were allowed inside, situated in front of Anjaneya Swamy temple inside the premises of Kapileswara Swamy temple.

It is still unclear who accorded the permission. When DC approached the Kapileswara Swamy temple's Deputy executive officer Subramanyam, he maintained that the homam was permitted and that due procedure was followed. He also denied that the private homam was restricted.

When this newspaper contacted Vaithyanathan, he said the homam was performed for the well-being of humankind and the entire universe.

UNDER ATTACK

■ **Insects attack minister after his team member disturbs beehive**

Bees take revenge on AP minister

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC
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AP water resource minister P. Anil Kumar Yadav was stung by honey bees as someone in his entourage literally stirred up a bee's nest at Banakacherla near Pamulapadu mandal on Friday.

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and also on his legs.

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A sway of honey bees from a nearby tree entered the Banakacherla irrigation project during an inspection by the minister, MLAs T. Arther, Silpa Chakrapani Reddy, Katasani Rambhupal Reddy, Silpa Ravichandra Kishore Reddy, as well as joint collector Pattansetty Ravisubhash and other irrigation officials. The

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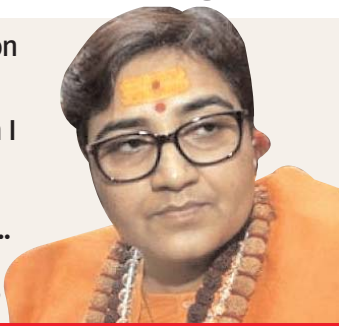
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Bees take revenge on AP minister

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THE SECRET OF YOUNGER-LOOKING SKIN



Job offer

Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav promises government job for a family member of Dr P. Priyanka Reddy

Plan to hike fare will benefit AP

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to increase Road Transport Corporation fares by 20 paise per kilometre will ironically help the Andhra Pradesh government get additional revenue as the APSRTC runs buses from Hyderabad to places in AP such as Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, and Tirupati, as also to Chennai, Bengaluru and other places outside the state.

Since the APSRTC has not increased its fares, it will be the cheaper alternative. Depending on the distance and bus service, there will be a difference of ₹50 to ₹100 per ticket between the TSRTC and the APSRTC.

APSRTC vice-chairman and managing director M Krishna Babu said that as of now there is no proposal to increase bus fares. He told this newspaper that according to an interstate agreement, in a particular state RTC buses of another state cannot charge less than what that state's bus service charges.

He said accordingly APSRTC will have to charge the same fare as TSRTC does for its service in Telangana state. So, for example, in buses running between Hyderabad and Vijayawada, Kakinada or Visakhapatnam, APSRTC will have to collect the same fare as TSRTC up to Kodada, the border between Telangana and AP. From Kodada to other places in AP, APSRTC will charge what it normally does.

In the same way, APSRTC buses from AP to Hyderabad will charge the usual fare up to Kodada and from Kodada to Hyderabad or any other place in Telangana, it will charge what TSRTC does. This will help the AP government to get additional revenue without having to increase bus fares.

No demand fulfilled yet relief to workers

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

The 54-day Road Transport Corporation strike has finally ended without a single demand made by the unions being met. But Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to allow the workers to join work without stipulating any conditions has been a big relief for the employees. This could be seen as a master stroke, as RTC workers across the state performed 'Palabhishekam' to Mr Rao's photograph on Friday before resuming work, though they had been abusing him for the last 50 days.

With a charter of 42 demands that included the merger of RTC with the government, TSRTC workers began the strike on October 5. From the beginning the Chief

Minister was determined not to give in to any of the demands. He gave the workers two deadlines to rejoin work but out of 48,000 employees, only around 500 did so.

Mid-strike, the RTC unions' joint action committee (JAC) announced that it was dropping its main demand of merger into the government, but this too did not bring the CM to the negotiating table.

Around 50 workers died during the period of the strike. About 30 of them died due to heart attack and suicide. As inexperienced temporary bus drivers were employed to keep the service going, around 20 people died across the state in bus related accidents.

Unmoved, the Chief Minister said several times that the strike was illegal.



TSRTC women conductors greet each other while on their way to join duty at Dilsukhnagar depot on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

CM, RTC staff meet on Dec 1
5 workers from each depot in the state will meet KCR

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will meet Road Transport Corporation (RTC) workers from all the 97 depots in the state on December 1 at Pragathi Bhavan in the city.

Five members from each depot will be invited and arrangements for their travel will be made for the Sunday lunch.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, Mr Rao will interact personally with the workers after they have been served lunch. He will discuss all the issues related to the RTC threadbare with the workers.

Mr Rao instructed RTC officials that of the five-member team from each depot, two members should be women and he also wanted representation of all communities.

The chief minister wanted workers representatives to reach Pragathi Bhavan by 12 noon and lunch arrangements were made for them at the venue.

Transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar thanked the Chief Minister for allowing RTC workers to join duty unconditionally. Mr Ajay Kumar who met

Cong divided over CM's move to end RTC strike

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

There are differences within Telangana Congress leaders over Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's decision on allowing RTC employees to return to duty. While senior Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy criticised the CM, Congress MLA T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy thanked Mr Rao for taking a good decision.

Speaking to reporters, the MLC alleged that the Chief Minister had provoked RTC employees into going on strike, as he was conspiring to increase ticket fares of the RTC.

Mr Jeevan Reddy said the strike was a diversionary tactic to increase RTC fares, which would help TSRTC earn an

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additional ₹2.98 crore a day, or more than ₹1,000 crore annually.

The MLC said Mr Rao had allowed RTC workers to rejoin duty as "Telangana biddalu (children)" after more than 50 days of strike. He could have said the same when the workers had served the strike notice.

"Who is responsible for the losses caused to RTC during the strike period," he asked.

He held Mr Rao responsible for the deaths of RTC workers during the strike period.

Addressing a separate media conference, Mr Jagga Reddy thanked the Chief Minister for allowing RTC workers to return to work "KCR's decision is good," he remarked.

On the increase in RTC fares, Mr Jagga Reddy said if people oppose the fare hike, Congress will fight the state government on their behalf.

Tension prevailed at Gandhi Bhavan when police prevented hundreds of Youth Congress workers from going in a procession from Gandhi Bhavan to Pragathi Bhavan as part of their "Telangana Bachao" programme. A large police contingent was deployed at the venue to prevent the procession from moving out. Police also made some preventive arrests to prevent any untoward incident.

the chief minister at Pragathi Bhavan on Friday also thanked him

for having assured to take measures to safeguard the RTC and for deciding to

have talks with the corporation employees directly.

PROPOSAL TO PRIVATISE RTC ROUTES SHELVED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to keep pending the proposal to privatise Road Transport Corporation (RTC) routes for some time. He wants to give the corporation time to settle down after the strike by employees.

At a media conference on Thursday, Mr Rao did not mention the privatisation.

The Cabinet has taken a decision to privatise 5,100 RTC routes and to float tenders for the purpose. Sources said that the decision to increase RTC fares was taken to attract private players.

The High Court has also given the green signal for the state government to move on privatising RTC routes.

According to the law, a state government has to take prior approval of the Centre to privatise RTC routes. Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari said this in Parliament two days ago.

RTC shuts down TMU office

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Within 24 hours of the statement by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao eliminating trade unions from the TSRTC, the corporation on Friday afternoon locked the office of the Telangana Mazdoor Union which is in the premises of Bus Bhavan at RTC crossroads of the city. The management cancelled the relief duties (exemption from attending the duty) of the union leaders, including the leaders of the recognised Telangana Mazdoor

Union. While stating that relief duty was granted to the union leaders to work for the resolution of the problems of the RTC workers, the management made it clear that hereafter no such relief will be given to the union leaders. Reacting to the management's action, TSRTC employees and workers unions' joint action committee said the removal of duty relief by leaders of trade unions is a silly act.

RTC JAC leader E. Ashwathama Reddy asked the labour commissioner to respond on the action of the RTC management.

Now, avail Metro ride from Hitec City to Raidurg

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Minister for municipal administration and urban development K.T. Rama Rao and minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar on Friday flagged off the Hyderabad Metro Rail service from Hitec City to Raidurg at the Hitec city metro station.

Soon after, they took a ride on the metro and travelled from Hitec City to Raidurg.

Speaking at the flag-off, Mr Rama Rao said: "This service is already carrying about four lakh commuters per day; this 1.5 km stretch will add another 40,000 passengers initially and help provide



Minister K.T. Rama Rao and CEO and MD L&T, S.N. Subramanyan flag off the Metro train from Hitec City station to Raidurg on Friday.

— R. PAVAN

seamless travel to many IT and ITES establishments in this part of the city."

He also directed Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd

officials to finish building footpaths and other facilities at Raidurg metro station in the next two weeks. HMRL managing direc-

tor N.V.S. Reddy, said Metro trains were running 780 trips daily covering 18,000 km and that the service has carried 12.5

crore passengers in the last two years.

He said Hyderabad Metro has so far received 98 awards and was judged the best Metro in the world in terms of passenger satisfaction by global public transport operator Keolis.

Managing director of L&THMRL, Mr K.V.B. Reddy, said the Hyderabad Metro Rail is a "key pillar of our city's infrastructure. It reflects L&T Group chairman A.M. Naik's vision and L&T's commitment towards nation building."

Hyderabad Metro Rail is an example of advancement of technology in providing transport solutions that make life easier for people, he added.

Traffic chaos rules in Old City

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

The deployment of traffic cops in the Old City is minimal compared to other parts of the city. Most commuters in old city avoid following traffic rules. The largest part of the Old City area comes under the south zone in terms of traffic management, where only four traffic police stations i.e. Mir Chowk, Falaknuma, Charminar and Bahadurpura are working. Fewer cops are posted to the south zone, which is not sufficient for the area at all. Traffic cops in the Old City do not concentrate on curbing traffic violations by commuters as they have to focus on regulating vehicles and



A traffic policeman allows an autorikshaw to carry bamboos near Brand Factory on Friday.

— SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL

removing hawkers during the morning and evening hours due to frequent snarls.

Commuters take advantage of the situation. They are confident that cops engaged in regulating the traffic will not take action against them even if they break the traffic rules and

if the cops focus on checking the vehicles, traffic will jam and other riders will start a hue and cry.

It is observed that if the traffic police stop any rider for flouting traffic rules and try to impose a challan, he starts arguing with the cops and is not ready to pay. They force

cops to speak with either some police officers or political leaders. Within half-an-hour, eight to 10 traffic violators who were challenged stand on the road surrounding the cops creating hurdles in traffic flow. This situation provides a chance of escaping to other bikers. Sometimes, political leaders reach the spot and start blaming the cops for targeting a particular section of society.

Many two-wheeler riders do not use a helmet in old city, but they use helmet if they have to go outside the old city. Motorists of the old city usually avoid going to places where traffic cops routinely stand for checking vehicles and use alternate routes.

For their master's ride



Police personnel push a vehicle to clear the traffic for the chief minister's convoy. They seldom act for commoners' which is why ambulances and fire engines are stuck in traffic jams.

— SRIRAM KARRI

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 5 pm: Krishnanagar, Siddhi Vinayaka temple, PG Road, FoodWorld, Maruthi Construction, Sindh Colony, Airlines Tower, DV Colony, Jawaharnagar Colony, Garden area, DV House 1, 2 and 3, Ramalaya behind KIMS Hospital, Annapurna Hotel area, DCA Office, Usha Kiran complex, Radhakrishnanagar, Babubagh, Green Gate, Prashant Apartments, Hari Nivas Hanuman temple, My Fair Complex, KPR Family Trust, Visakha Industries, Bharani Complex, Ashoka Builders layout, Jade Arcade Building, SBH Bank line, Fruit Market, Axis Bank.

10 am to 2 pm: Dilshadnagar, Ayodyanagar, SBI Colony, Aravind Eye Hospital, Santhoshnagar, Milan Garden, Hill Colony, VV Colony, LIC Colony, MIGH, Dilshadnagar, Kranthinagar, Amba Theatre, Income Tax Colony, Rammurthi Colony, Mehdiapatnam Bus Depot, Nagarjuna Hills, Journalist Colony, Banjara Hills Road No. 3, area up to Srinagar Colony Line AB Switch, area behind Mirchi Hotel, Sujana area, Nagarjuna Fitlager area, Little Flower Hospital area; Old Andhra Jyothi area, Venkateshwara Hills, VST Quarters; Sagar Society, area opposite Masjid, Arora Colony. 2 pm to 5 pm: Shivbagh, Jayanagar, Sharadanagar, Gudimalkapur Kabbadi Stadium, Mahaveernagar, Markendeyanagar, LIC Colony, Gudimalkapur, VBG Garden, Navodaya Colony, Sabernagar, Huda Colony, Alinagar, Priya Colony, Jayanagar; Muradnagar, Chota Masjid, Syed Ali Guda, Alapatnagar, Kalvin Hotel, Chilla PT, Post Office; Banjara Hills Road No. 7 (e-Seva), Road No. 4; Government School, GHMC, Ratnadeep Supermarket, Zaheranagar.

SHORT TAKE

Inter exam timetable

Hyderabad: The TS Board of Intermediate Education has announced the tentative timetable for the Intermediate Public Examinations in March next. The ethics and human values examination is proposed to be conducted on January 28, from 10 am as was done earlier. This is proposed to be followed by the environmental education examination on January 30 from 10 am. The practical examinations are proposed to be conducted from February 1 to 20, including Sundays, for both general and vocational courses.

The rest of the proposed timetable is as follows. The exams will be held from 9 am to 12 noon. Intermediate First Year March 4: Part-II: 2nd Language-1 March 6: Part-I: English-1 March 10: Part-III: Maths-1A, Botany-1, Civics-1, Psychology-1 March 12: Maths-1B, Zoology-1, History-1 March 14: Physics-1, Economics-1, Classical Language-1 March 17: Chemistry-1, Commerce-1, Sociology-1, Fine Arts, Music-1 March 19: Geology-1, Home Sciences-1, Public Administration-1, Logic-1, Bridge Course Maths-1 (for BPC students) March 21: Modern Language-1, Geography-1 Intermediate Second Year March 5: Part-II 2nd Language-2 March 7: Part-I: English-2 March 11: Part-III: Maths-2A, Botany-2, Civics-2, Psychology-2 March 13: Maths-2B, Zoology-2, History-2 March 16: Physics-2, Economics-2, Classical Language-2 March 18: Chemistry-2, Commerce-2, Sociology-2, Fine Arts, Music-2 March 20: Geology-2, Home Sciences-2, Public Administration-2, Logic-2, Bridge Course Maths-2 March 23: Modern Language-2, Geography-2



Big fleet

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjali Kumar says city police has 122 patrol cars to rush to people's assistance

City

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 30 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Cops discuss 'options other than arrest'

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

On a wintery December night in 2008, public anger had swept the state after two women engineering students of Kakatiya Institute of Technology were attacked with acid. Three young men, who had thrown acid in Warangal, were arrested within 48 hours. The demand from the angry citizens was to kill all three in an 'encounter.'

Hours after the arrest was announced, they were taken to the scene of offence as part of gathering evidence when, according to the police, they tried to attack the policemen with a country made weapon and acid that they had buried in the location. The police shot dead all three in self-defence. The young superintendent of police of

Warangal district, Mr V.C. Sajjanar — whose team killed the three accused — had become a hero for thousands of youngsters who garlanded him, presented him bouquets, shook hands and even hoisted him on their shoulders, something rare in the history of the undivided AP police. For Mr Sajjanar, an officer known to keep a low profile and who is described as a "silent operator" by his colleagues, all the attention was, perhaps a bit awkward.

Eleven years later, Mr Sajjanar, now a senior IPS officer and police commissioner of Cyberabad, once again finds himself in a similar situation as public anger peaks over the brutal rape and murder of veterinary doctor P. Priyanka Reddy by four men, who were arrested within 48 hours of the crime. The

Anger over police apathy

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

There is public outrage on the 'insensitive', 'shameless' and 'unsympathetic' questions that the police ask in regarding cases involving young women. Their guess, that Dr P. Priyanka Reddy must have eloped, has angered many. "Who will have confidence to go the police if this is what you will be told?" Dr V. Prasad, senior researcher, said. "A distressed parent has come about their missing daughter, and instead of listening

to them and acting immediately, the police gives unverified and provocative answers. How insensitive. Will they do it if it is a minister's daughter?" People believe that had the police alerted patrol vans on time, Dr Reddy could have been saved.

"She was a doctor who went missing," said G.R. Ramesh, businessman. "Her sister's conversation should set alarm bells ringing. Isn't it proof enough to act and go searching for her? Why should someone be told that they have to wait and

check with friends and family?" People are also angry that time is wasted in bureaucratic paperwork rather than in putting technology to use. There were the toll plaza cameras, patrol vans and personnel at the police's disposal.

"The police have been given huge vans by the government to act swiftly," G Shankar, senior citizen, said. "Four of them travel around on a daily basis in the name of patrolling. What were they doing when a girl really needed them?"

cism for the way it dealt with the case — planning "something more than mere arrest" to calm down tempers and be the "heroes" once again in the public eye?

If the hush-hush discussions among the police brass and their bosses in government are any indication, there were quite a few "options" on the table, other than arrest, which could have shown the Chandrasekhar Rao government as a gutsy government. The discussions reportedly went on for quite some time before Mr Sajjanar announced the arrests at a press conference. However, the Warangal 'encounter' on the night of December 13, 2008, had taken place a few hours after the arrest.

Well informed sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that various options and scenar-

ios were being discussed even as the interrogation of the four accused was underway. While some were of the opinion that "results have to be shown" immediately, there were suggestions that came from some officials. But in the end, it is learnt, the top bosses in the government directed the police to go ahead with arrest.

The hush-hush discussion that "something more than arrest" would calm public anger was aimed at sending across a message that the Telangana police will not taking things lying down when it came to such macabre crimes. "The pros and cons of various scenarios were discussed," was all an official said. They said that often it becomes difficult for the men in khaki to take a decision on the course of action when public anger is high.

Dark alleys and staring eyes: Night commute is a nightmare

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Travelling alone in a cab or returning home from work — late evening or at night — continues to be cumbersome for the city's women. Many say that they are jeered at or checked out by perverse eyes as they try to simply get home. Last month, Shamoli Das (name changed) was driving home from a Secunderabad temple. She was dressed modestly and traditionally. That did not stop a youngster from following her till her doorstep and staring at her.

This is the proverbial wet blanket on the cops' caller tune, 'people-friendly police'. "There was no fear in his eyes as he followed me home. I tried calling the police to scare him, but their lack of action only

● **WOMEN ALSO** recall when they were asked to get off a moving cab in the middle of nowhere, sometimes by the auto driver. For some, it feels like a premeditated plan of assault, individually or by a group.

emboldened him. I had to call my husband to scare him off," she rued.

Despite the husband, the miscreant merely said he was not following her. "He just sat on his scooter, making a mental note of my address, and then drove off." This may be one-off but there are plenty situations where women are jeered at when they go out

for dinner or drinks. "Once when I tried to enter a restaurant that serves alcohol, men tried to crowd me and did not give me space to move," said Swetha of Punjagutta. "It was as if they were trying to grope me. Fortunately a fight broke out and I escaped."

Women are harassed even in moving cars or autos. "On a bus there are times when men try to occupy the women's seat, and try to huddle with the opposite sex. I had to stop taking the bus, but cabs are no better. Every time I board a cab I have to inform my parents or brother of the cab details. Why? Am I not entitled to my dignity?" questioned another woman from Bowenpally.

Women also recall when they were asked to get off a moving cab in the middle of

nowhere, sometimes by the auto driver. For some it feels like a premeditated plan of assault, individually or by a group.

Sudden decisions by auto drivers are a major problem. The drivers say that dark alleys are dangerous for them, but what about the woman passenger they are abandoning?

Often a woman has to bribe them to get through dark alleys. These deserted spots are mostly on the under-developed outskirts, two to three kilometers from the main road. They are such that there is no other public transport.

Most have to wait at a paan shop or a bandi and call their family.

These problems are constant. And now Priyanka Reddy's case is cause for further alarm.

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Re-think

WORKWEAR

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Relief lost

Ashwathama Reddy condemns cancellation of relief duties of the union leaders and seeks Labour Commission's intervention



Don't lose your confidence. Your confidence is your shield

— M. Mahendar Reddy
Telangana DGP

IN BRIEF

Kidnapped child rescued

Vijaywada: Police rescued a five-month-old boy within five hours of his kidnap and handed him over to his parents. Sagalampudi Santosh Kumar was kidnapped during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday from Piduguralla. His abductors called his father Sagalampudi Siva demanding ₹5 lakh for returning him. Siva, however, lodged a complaint with police. Guntur Rural superintendent of police Ch. Vijaya Rao formed teams led by Sattenapalli DSP R. Vijayabhaskar Reddy and Piduguralla circle inspector Surendra Babu who started conducting searches. They tracked the calls and reached Oppicharla village of Karampudi mandal, where they found the kidnapped boy with one S. Moulali in the early hours of Friday.

Lifer for raping minor

Nellore: Mr G.S. Ramesh Kumar, First Additional District and Sessions and POCOS Court Special Judge convicted a man for raping a minor and sentenced him to life in prison, on Friday. The judge also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on the offender. The victim is an 11-year-old girl belonging to Rajampeta in Kadapa district and was living with her ailing grandmother at Muthukuru in Nellore district. Police said the convict, Mallipati Sai Krishna, used to run a provisions shop at Muthukuru where the girl used to shop for groceries. On May 21, 2015, he took her to a secluded place by offering biscuits and chocolates and raped her.

CBI books GST inspector

Vijayawada: CBI, Visakhapatnam registered a case against Central tax inspector Shaik Jamil Ahmed, working in the Kadapa GST division office on Friday. The CBI received a complaint alleging that Ahmed had submitted false information to his department with regard to purchase of a flat at Kadapa.

TRAFFIC CURBS FOR CONCERT TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

The traffic police will put in place restrictions on the movement of vehicles between 5 pm and 10 pm on Saturday to facilitate the live music concert at LB stadium. Renowned singers K.J. Yesudas, S.P. Balasubramanyam and K.S. Chitra will be performing at the concert.

The restrictions, to be put in place as required, are as follows: At AR Petrol Pump Junction, traffic towards BJR statue will be diverted towards Nampally via KLK Building or Ravindra Bharati

Traffic from Abids and Gunfoundry headed for BJR statue and Basheerbagh Junction will be diverted at SBI Gunfoundry towards Chapel Road.

Traffic from Old MLA Quarters towards Basheerbagh will be diverted at Old MLA Quarters towards Himayatnagar Y-Junction.

Traffic from King Koti to Basheerbagh via Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan will be diverted at King Koti crossroad towards Hotel Taj Mahal and Eden Garden.

Traffic from Liberty towards Basheerbagh Junction will be diverted at Liberty Junction towards Himayatnagar.

Traffic from Ravindra Bharati side towards Basheerbagh will be diverted at Old PCR junction towards Nampally.

Students in tutorials lead very tough life

All work and no play make students' lives miserable

ADITYA CHUNDURU I
DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

For many, the cause of the accident that killed two students of Narayana Junior College's 'Verma 1' campus in Madhapur was clear: misguided youngsters acting on impulse. Their parents and college seem to think so too. But could there be more to it than that? Could it be that the strict restrictions imposed on them by their college, the lack of facilities at junior colleges, and high stress levels while preparing for competitive exams, fed the students' impulses?

They were "long term" students — those who take a gap year after Intermediate to clear competitive exams — studying for the Neet to become doctors.

For over a decade, corporate junior colleges have been springing up like mushrooms in the Telugu states. Thousands of students have studied in them over the years, and their struggles are well-documented.

Students are squeezed into small rooms for 12-14 hours at a stretch. There are rarely any dining halls where they can stretch their legs. Those who stay in the on-campus hostel are not allowed to leave except on a weekend or two in a month.

Every night, the hostel gates are locked, driving home the point that the students have no agency.

The students are required to take a minimum of two tests every week (Saturday and Monday), with reports sent to their parents.

The ones who do well are taken into special batches — known by myriad names such as Spark and Fast Track. Students in these batches are made to study a few hours more than the rest.

Needless to say, there are no recreational facilities in any of these colleges. Several students studying in these colleges have killed themselves in the past.

The answer to why the nine students did what they did is quite complicated.

Dr Pragya Rashmi, a city-based psychologist, said, "The act of adolescents breaking out of their restraints is a global phenomenon and can be observed across generations. Where there is restraint, there is generally break-out. However, this being said, it is important to note that the education system in intermediate colleges in the Telugu states is an issue."

Dr Rashmi noted that there were innumerable cases of students being depressed, committing suicide, having physical



Bheem Shankar, father of Uday Shanker, in a state of shock at the OGH mortuary. — P. SURENDRA

Students' action was impromptu

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Bhaskar was one of the nine intermediate students who went on a joyride across the city early Friday morning, after climbing down a pipe from their rooms.

The car the students were in hit the pillar of a flyover near Aramghar, killing two of the boys. Bhaskar escaped without injuries but his friends Tarun and Uday died in the crash.

Bhaskar's family rushed in from Nagarkurnool when they heard about the incident. His aunt told *Deccan Chronicle*, "Our boy is so fortunate. If it was him who died, we would have been grieving at the morgue."

His father was pacing outside the principal's office, worried about his son's future, now that he was named in a police case.

■ **STUDENTS ARE SQUEEZED** into small rooms for 12-14 hours at a stretch.

■ **THERE ARE** rarely any dining halls where they can stretch their legs.

■ **THOSE WHO** stay in the on-campus hostel are not allowed to leave except on a weekend or two in a month.

and mental issues. She said that students in these colleges would be better off if they had facilities which could channel their impulses in a better way.

"When there is cognitive overburdening, it has to be balanced by

"The principal told us to counsel Bhaskar. He told us to talk sense into him," he said.

One of the friends, Ganesh, had left the hostel in the evening with permission from the administration. He went home to fetch his father's car. The others climbed down a pipe after midnight and met at a predetermined place.

When asked why he chose to climb down the building, Bhaskar shuffled his feet and said, "We just felt like it. We didn't think much."

Ganesh's father Satish, a resident of Kompally, who owned the car, said, "We admitted our son here so that he could become a doctor. I did not think I would wake up to this news."

Mr Satish, a sarpanch in Narayankhed mandal, had apparently learnt of the accident via news reports.

action, by physical activity. That does not happen in these colleges. This is especially required in adolescents, it is very important. But it doesn't happen since the students have no time," she said.

Dr Harini Atturu, another city-based psychologist, had similar views. "Stress could definitely be one of the causes of the students' behaviour. But, they wouldn't have done what they did if they did not have underlying impulsive behaviour. You can't blame one reason. There must have been someone in that group who encouraged them to break rules and encouraged their impulses," she said.

whole road. How can you blame Priyanka for the crime? Is this what you say in public," the protestor asked. Rahod retorted: "We are doing everything we can." However, the unrelenting mob made it impossible for her to speak.

Another emotional protestor said, "From the morning, ministers and MLAs have visited their house and left. We want to know what they are doing. She (Rathod) is a woman, she should understand our pain."

It wasn't clear what the protestors wanted the minister to do. But they were upset when Rathod left. "She just huffed and left. Her gunman intimidated us and even slapped a person who was not willing to move," a protestor said.

VICTIMS WERE SITTING IN THE SUV REAR SEAT

From Page 1

Mr Suresh further said that the accident scene suggests that the two deceased were occupying the rear portion of the SUV.

"It was learnt that the students had left the college campus without intimidation. They went towards Rajiv Gandhi International Airport for a joy ride, after celebrating the birthday of a student. Ganesh, one of the students, left the hostel after taking permission and borrowed his uncle Krishna's SUV," the inspector said.

A case was registered into the incident for probe.

Police are verifying if the student who drove the vehicle had a driving license.

The bodies were handed over to their kin after an autopsy at the OGH mortuary.



Family members of Tarun at OGH mortuary. — P. SURENDRA

WOMAN HIT BY RTC BUS IN MANCHERIAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
MANCHERIAL, NOV. 29

An elderly woman died after being hit by an RTC bus while she was crossing the road near Bellampalli chowrasta here on Friday.

The victim was identified as Posu of Mittapalli in Jaipur mandal. It is learnt that she was returning from an eye clinic. After hitting the woman, the driver got down from the bus and escaped. Local sub-inspector Maruthi reached the scene, registered a case and began investigations. The bus belongs to the Bhoopalpalli bus depot.

Regular bus services resumed on Friday after a prolonged strike by the RTC workers.

'A BRIGHT KID, HOPED TO BECOME A DOC'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

With reports emerging that students left the college campus without intimidating the management, allegedly after jumping the compound wall, family members of the two deceased students — K. Tarun Kumar and D. Uday Shankar — have strongly spoken out against the management of Narayana College.

Heart-wrenching moments were witnessed at the OGH mortuary, when Tarun's mother Mrs Ambika Kumar, who could barely speak, was crying inconsolably, lost her consciousness several times. Eashwar Panjwani, Tarun's brother-in-law, said the college management should take responsibility for Tarun's death.

"While admitting the child, the college management promised his safety and that they would inform when the boy steps out of campus. But they only called to inform us that he was no more," he said.

At around 6.30 am, officials from the college management called Ms Sneha, Tarun's sister, informing her that he had met with an accident and suffered injuries.

"Only after reaching the OGH, we learnt about his death," said Panjwani. "Is it not the responsibility of the college to take care of our wards? How can they callously just inform that students had jumped the compound wall and ran away? What was the security guard doing? Where was the warden?"

Meanwhile, Ms Shobha Rani, relative of Uday Shankar, said, "He was a bright student, who had scored over 980 marks in intermediate examinations. I forced his parents and got him admitted to the college so that he could become a doctor. This kind of incident should not happen to any child. No family should face such loss."

■ **HEART-WRENCHING** moments were witnessed at the OGH mortuary, when Tarun's mother Mrs Ambika Kumar, who could barely speak, was crying inconsolably, lost her consciousness several times. Eashwar Panjwani, Tarun's brother-in-law, said the college management should take responsibility for Tarun's death.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

"The memory of the righteous is blessed" *Proverbs 10:7*



Mr. PASHAM MESHACH GNANANANDAM (Johnny)
(Retd. Sr. Asst. TSSPDCCL, Ex-Chess Coach - YMCA)
DOB: 03.05.1920 DOD: 23.11.2019
Prayer Meeting: On Sunday, 1st December 2019 at 6.00 p.m.
Venue: H.No. 18/C, New Saidabad Colony, Hyderabad. Contact No. 9985815105
In Grief: P. Leena (Daughter), K. Prabhu Kumar (Son-in-law)
Grand Sons: K. Jacinath Philip & K. Jason Joshua
(S/1920/D01339)

1st ANNIVERSARY IN FOND REMEMBRANCES



MONA ARVIND KUMAR
30.11.2018
Always on our minds forever in our hearts
Smt. Padmavathi Tarmakdass, Arvind Kumar Tarmakdass, Anand Arvind Kumar, Jyoti Arvind Das, Surekha Tarmakdass, Anita Bharat Shah & Family, Dr. B.M. Adajia & Family Member, Mumbai, Near & Dear Friends.
(B/1920/D00147)

10th Death Anniversary



Late Sri S. Santhanam, IAS (1935-2009)
Life has never been the same without you. We still miss you.
Your Family
(CA-3085)

HALF-BURNT BODY FOUND

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 29

The half-burnt body of an youth was found in a mango grove at Dammaigudem under Tirumalayapalem on Friday. The person was identified as Cheedirla Naresh,

a native of Beerolu, who ran an eatery in Hyderabad.

The police has started investigations to trace the murderers.

It is learnt that Naresh had disputes with his wife and a divorce case was being heard in court.

2nd ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
S. RAVIKANTH, ADVOCATE



YOU ARE REMEMBERED EVERY MOMENT
DoB: 29-11-1968 DoD: 30-11-2017
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Phones: 9849499899, 9676619977, 9908766617

3rd Death Anniversary



Sdn. Paramjeet Kaur Chhabra
From sunrise to sunset every moment would have been more wonderful if you were with us today. Your memories will never be forgotten. Miss you mom, always will
Fondly remembered by: Husband: Sarabjeet Singh Sons: Diljeet Singh, Rajbeer Singh Daughter: Simran Kaur
(S/1920/D01340)

50 YEARS IN SILENT REMEMBRANCE

The memory of the just is blessed Prov. 10:7



G.J. JASMIN LUTHER (Govt. Teacher)
Prof. B.L. Martin & Family: 9866433733
B.L. Lilly Rose & Family: 9912958587
Late G.J. Krupamma & Family: 9491131589
G.J. Louise & Family: 7032350707
Rev. Dr. G.J. Joseph & Family: 9490437714
(S/1920/D01340)

UTHAVANA



Smt. VINOD GUPTA (W/o Sh. Shamali Gupta)
Expired on 27.11.2019
Uthavana will be held today 30.11.2019 at Pahari Hanuman Mandir, Mahindra Hills, East Marredupally, Secunderabad from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.
Inserted by: Shamali Gupta (Husband) Shilpa - Vinay Gupta (Daughter-in-Law & Son) Pojja - Vikas Gupta (Daughter-in-Law & Son) Preeti Bansal (Daughter) & Family M/s. Vikas Steels M/s. SLG Electricals 9849070135
(S/1920/D01327)

1st ANNIVERSARY IN FOND REMEMBRANCES



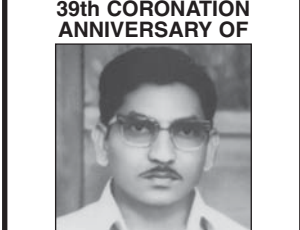
MONA ARVIND KUMAR
W/o Arvind Kumar Tarmakdass 30.11.2018
Always on our minds forever in our hearts
Smt. Padmavathi Tarmakdass, Shri. Rajendra Kumar, Smt. Brijbala R Kumar, Shri. Chaitanya R Kumar, Smt. Neeta C Kumar, Tia Chaitanya Kumar, Smt. Pranita Gargani, Shri. Jayesh Gargani, Aakash and Arya, Smt. Nimita Kadakia, Shri. Amish Kadakia, Kavaya and Vivek.
(B/1920/D00146)

10th Death Anniversary



Late Sri S. Santhanam, IAS (1935-2009)
Life has never been the same without you. We still miss you.
Your Family

God is our Merciful Father & the source of all comfort. - 2 Cor 1:4



39th CORONATION ANNIVERSARY OF
Late Mr. P.Z. PRASAD RAO, DTD DOB: 14.03.1938 DOD: 30.11.1980
Dad, on your CORONATION day, I am Receiving My 39th CONVOCATION & I have kept your Last Wish to "SERVE THE LORD"
Inserted by your Loving Son: PASTOR AUSTIN DINAKER PERUMALLA CELL: 9849655769, 8125605769
(CA-3085)

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. - 2 Timothy



C.J. NEERAJ KUMAR
Not a single day passed, without your thoughts, there are no words to ease my pain, my sadness and grief, but although you have left this world you'll stay within my heart forever.
Inserted by: SUZANA SULEKHA (Loving Wife) RAHUL & DEEPTHI (Children)

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Late. Meduri Krishnaveni
DOD: 30-11-2017 W/o. Late M.A. Naidu
A beautiful soul, full of love and faith ascended to heaven, away from us, but closer to God who will rest her soul in peace
Inserted by: Ganji Mohan Lakshmi Devi Saduneni Venkateswara Rao & Vasanta & Grand Childrens. Ph: 9866206998

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Smt. TOTTEPUDI VAJRAMMA D.O.D: 30.11.2011
T. Rohini T. Padma Lata
T. Srinjith T. Kavita
T. Salalihith T. Sowmya
T. Sujanih T. Abhidyut
T. Hardhik T. Aihitya
T. Bhaveth T. Adhishtan
(A/1920/D00073)

10th ANNIVERSARY



Smt. ESHWARI N. RUPANI W/o Late Nari Rupani
You are our strength, inspiration and pride. You will always remain with us. In Remembrance
Deepak & Varsha Rupani Ama Rupani Kanchan & Suresh Asnani
(S/1920/D01332)

2nd ANNIVERSARY

The memory of the righteous is blessed. Prov 10:7



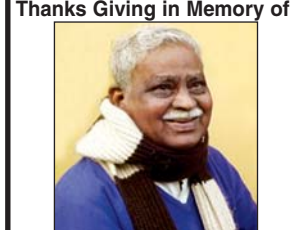
Bro. CHANDHRABHAN CHASE (God's Servant, Hebron)
D.O.B: 26.01.1938 D.O.D: 30.11.2017
Dad, I'm so thankful for all the memories we shared together, it's been two years and I still keep thinking... Miss you so much.
David Chase - 986633645
SYMPHONY ACADEMY OF MUSIC

OBITUARY



TADEPALLY SREEDHAR RAO (20-11-2019)
With Deep Sadness, we regret to inform you of the passing of my Father Mr. Tadepally Sreedhar Rao on 20-11-2019 at 12:12 PM
The rituals of his final rites will be held on the following
Dt: 29-11-2019: 10th day rituals on Friday Dashaavaham, Dharmodhakalu, Thilodhakalu
30-11-2019: 11th day rituals on Saturday Shodasham
01-12-2019: 12th day rituals on Sunday Vakratu Samaradhani
Widow: Sreedhara Devi & Sons: Sreekanth Reddy, Tadepally Sanjay (Son) Ph: 9848268681

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 1 Tim: 4:7



Bro. M.L. GEORGE
Today @ 6 p.m. @ Hermon Prayer House, Old MIG, Phase-II, BHIL Township.
Inserted by: Ballem Elizabeth - Daughter Ballem Tirzath Mrudula - Grand Daughter
Pls. treat it as personal invitation Ph: 8184857348
(S/1920/D01337)

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16TH JAN, 2020

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DRAW DATE
16TH JAN, 2020

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SAMSUNG

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- Minimal design, Maximum impact
- QLED begins at reality

65" Q80R	55" Q80R
MRP: ₹3,09,900/-	MRP: ₹2,09,900/-
SPECIAL PRICE: ₹2,69,990/-	SPECIAL PRICE: ₹1,59,990/-

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(STORAGE 32GB)

MRP: ₹29,990/-
CASHBACK: ₹3000/-
DISCOUNT: ₹2000/-
EFFECTIVE PRICE: ₹24,990/-

iPhone XR
(STORAGE 64GB)

MRP: ₹49,990/-
CASHBACK: ₹5000/-
DISCOUNT: ₹2000/-
EFFECTIVE PRICE: ₹42,990/-

iPhone XR
(STORAGE 128GB)

MRP: ₹54,990/-
CASHBACK: ₹5000/-
DISCOUNT: ₹2000/-
EFFECTIVE PRICE: ₹47,990/-

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JUBILEE HILLS | KARMANGHAT | KOMPALLY | KONDAPUR | KOTHAPET | KUKATPALLY | LAKDI-KA-POOL | M. G. ROAD | MADINAGUDA | MALAKPET | MIYAPUR | NACHARAM | NAGOLE | NALLAKUNTA | NIZAMPET | PUNJAGUTTA
RAJENDRA NAGAR PILLAR NO 215 | RAMANTHAPUR | RC PURAM | RTC 'X' ROAD | SHAH ALI BANDA | SHAMSHABAD | SR NAGAR | SUN CITY | TOLICHOWKI | VANASTHALIPURAM

TELANGANA: MAHABUBNAGAR | KHAMMAM | KARIMNAGAR | WARANGAL | NIZAMABAD
ANDHRA PRADESH: VIZAG | GAJUWAKA | KAKINADA | RAJAHMUNDRY | VIJAYAWADA | GUNTUR | NELLORE | TIRUPATI

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*Terms and Conditions Apply: On selected Samsung products only. 75 days offer is under the EMI offer. EMI and approval of EMI is at the sole discretion of the finance company and the decision of the finance company management is final. 0% finance is available on selected models and brands only. 0% finance on mobiles and laptops are only for limited period. Finance offer is not valid for products below Rs.10,000/- Finance offer is not applicable on Samsung & LG Products. Free gifts are not applicable on Laptops, Mobiles, Home Appliances and Kitchen Appliances. Product images shown here are only for demonstration purpose. Please check the products before purchase. Cashback offer is applicable for Bajaj Finance customers. Offer is applicable on True Bajaj Finserv, on select models and brands not applicable on Sony, Samsung and LG products. *Free gift is applicable on select brands and products and is not applicable on mobiles and laptops.

For corporate bookings or bulk orders, please email us at **corporatesales@bajajelectronics.in**



Picked up

TS Yuvajana Congress president Srinivas arrested near Gandhi Bhavan for staging 'Telangana Bachao' protest

HC paves way for polls to urban local bodies

Stay on orders issued on notifications in 67 municipalities lifted

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

■ JUSTICE RAJASHEKER Reddy gave seven days to the public to file objections regarding the errors in the pre-poll process.

The Telangana High Court on Friday cleared the way for the government to hold elections to urban local bodies by vacating the stay orders issued in July on election notifications in 67 municipalities.

Justice A. Rajasheker Reddy on Friday passed a consensus order after the petitioners in the batch of 74 petitions and the state government agreed with his proposal to break the impasse.

As proposed earlier, Justice Rajasheker Reddy gave seven days to the public to file objections regarding the errors in the pre-poll process.

Another seven days were

given to the respective municipal commissioners to act on the objections in accordance with the law.

On the 15th day, the municipal commissioners should submit a report to the director of municipal administration after taking action on the objections filed by the petitioners. The director should send a report to the government to issue notification for holding civil polls, the judge said.

The competent authority will initiate action to issue the final notification in

accordance with the law.

Justice Rajasheker Reddy directed that the municipal commissioners must act in a proactive manner in receiving objections from the public and try to address them in a such manner that the petitioners are satisfied.

He warned that the officials that if the court found any inaccuracy or errors in resolving the objections, they would face serious action.

As he did not find a difference of opinion between the state government and the

petitioners with regard to setting aside the final notification issued by the municipal administration department on July 7, the judge set them aside. The final notifications had been issued confirming the delimitation of wards.

Justice Rajasheker Reddy said that officials should strictly adhere to the Telangana Municipalities Act rules while considering objections, failing which there was every possibility that the petitioner would approach the court again.

The court specifically cautioned the officials to give a written explanation to the petitioners or applicants if their objections were not considered.

Name Lokayukta by Dec. 20: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Though the government did not keep its word to appoint the Lokayukta, Upa Lokayukta and chairman of the State Human Rights Commission within the deadline, the Telangana High Court on Friday directed that the appointments be made by December 20.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was dealing with the PIL filed by social activist Koini Venkanna from Khammam, seeking directions to the government to make the appointment to the statutory bodies including Information Commissioners under the Right to Information Act. Inquiring into the rea-

son for the delay in making the appointments, the Bench said that the government should not violate the laws.

It said that a longer delay would have a negative impact on the minds of the people with regard to serious allegations on corruption and violation of human rights.

Reacting sharply to Advocate General B.S. Prasad's submissions that the process was delayed due to the RTC employees' strike, Chief Justice Chauhan said, "We are allergic to the bureaucratic type of language."

On November 8, the Advocate General had assured to the court that the appointments process would be completed by November 29. Based on this, the bench had hoped that AG's assurance would be realised.

New innings



TRS leader K. Kavitha, the daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan, takes a selfie with HCA president Mohammed Azharuddin who went to invite her for his son Mohammed Asaduddin's wedding, in Hyderabad on Friday.

— STYLE PHOTO SERVICE

Skyworth inks \$100m deal to open TS unit

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

The Skyworth Group, a consumer electronics conglomerate worth \$5 billion, signed a memorandum of agreement (MoU) with the state government on Friday. Mr. Lai Wei, chairman of the Skyworth Group, signed the document in the presence of minister K.T. Rama Rao and other government officials.

The conglomerate has announced that it will invest \$100

million in phases to set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing base under the name of Radiant Applicants and Electronics Limited. The base would be spread across 50 acres. Skyworth's METZ brand LED TVs are already in production. In the second phase of expansion, it will start manufacturing lithium batteries for electric vehicles and a wide array of white goods such as air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines.



Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
National Institutional Ranking Framework



INDIA RANKINGS 2020

NIRF has announced India Rankings 2020, the fifth edition of the annual exercise.

Data Capturing System (DCS) for data submission was opened on October 22, 2019. Last date for data submission in DCS has been extended till December 7, 2019, 5 pm. For further information, please visit our website www.nirfindia.org.

In case of any query or help, you are requested to contact us on techsupport@nirfindia.org.

Member Secretary

davp 21315/11/0005/1920



Government of Kerala
FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT




Window No. 19/c-331 • Tender No. A2-23/6/2018 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Kozhikode, Vanasree, Mathotham, Arakkal, P.O. 673028, Phone-0495-2414702 • E-auction sale of timber at Chullyam, Parappu, Kannur, Kappad and Bavali dumping deposits coming under Kozhikode Forest Division on 19/12/19, 4/12/19, 19/12/19 & 30/12/19, 4/12/19 & 19/12/19 & 30/12/19 respectively • PAC - 7 Crores


Window No. 19/c-333 • Tender No. R-1696/2018 • December 2019 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Kozhikode, Vanasree, Mathotham, Arakkal, P.O. 673028, Phone-0495-2414702 • E-auction sale of timber at Chullyam, Parappu, Kannur, Kappad and Bavali dumping deposits coming under Kozhikode Forest Division on 19/12/19, 4/12/19, 19/12/19 & 30/12/19, 4/12/19 & 19/12/19 & 30/12/19 respectively • PAC - 7 Crores

Window No. 19/c-333 • Tender No. E-4777/19 (Sandal oil) • Divisional Forest Officer, Sandal Division, Marayoor, P.O. Idukki-685620, Phone-0486-2529884 • E-auction sale of sandalwood oil kept at Forest headquarters Thiruvananthapuram on 20/12/2019 from Sandal division, Marayoor • EMD: 50,000/- • PAC - 2.30 Crores

Full details on Tender Advertisement appeared above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender is invited. For details on all tenders, please visit www.kerala.gov.in/tenders/index.htm or visit the office. Do not get the advertisement of your choice. R.O. No. T/2/C/19/PRD.



Department of Atomic Energy
Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit



Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice

Last Date for Submission of Online Bid against NIT No.: DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11012 is extended to 10/12/2019 up to 2.00 PM.

visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details

[DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/18C4]



SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Raebareilly Road, Lucknow - 226014
Phones : (0522) 2668004-8, 2668700, 2668800, 2668900, 2494038
Fax: 91-522-2668973, Email: jdmm@sggpi.ac.in



E-TENDER /RE-TENDER NOTICE

On-line offers are invited for empanelment of authorized/exclusive vendors/ publishers willing to supply of Library Books. The vendors are required to submit their offer on e-tender portal only i.e. www.etender.up.in in two bid system i.e. technical & financial bid. More so, online objections are invited on e-tender portal for proprietary of e-Journals i.e. Up-To-Date of Walter Kluwer, Ovid E-Learning Products for small classes & BMJ Complete E-Resources Package.

The details like terms & conditions, schedule of submission of offer & opening will be available on e-tender portal within 03 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. No offline offer shall be accepted. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer in full or part without assigning any reason.

Advt. No.: I/41/JDMM/2019-20 DIRECTOR



NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-31/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028
CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Ref: 1(30)/Pers/Med/DNM/RFQ/2019 Date : 30.11.2019

Invitation for Quotation from interested Healthcare Institutions for Operating and Managing the Healthcare Services at Project Hospital, Donimalai, Dist: Bellary, Karnataka.

The RFQ document including Eligibility Criteria can be viewed and / or downloaded the NMDC's website www.nmdc.co.in and Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP): www.eprocure.gov.in from 30.11.2019 to 20.12.2019. The intending parties are required to visit the NMDC's website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, General Manager (Personnel), NMDC Limited can be contacted on Fax: 040-23533587, Phone: 040-23532966, email: homedical@nmdc.co.in

General Manager (Personnel)



N-11013/01/2019/RL
National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society
Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India




7th Floor, NDCC-II Building,
Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001
Dated 27th Nov 2019


Notice for extension of Last date
for receipt of applications

The closing date for receipt of applications for the posts of Director (Administration & Finance), Dy Director (Administration) and Accounts Officer in NRLPS to be filled on deputation basis, published in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar Edition dated 10th Aug 2019 has further been extended up to 15th December 2019. All other terms and conditions would remain the same. The particulars of the posts, eligibility conditions etc. are given in the website www.aajeevika.gov.in

Sd/- (Anita Baghel)
Director (Admin & Fin), NRLPS
davp 35202/11/0003/1920



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE



The Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.) / E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the president of India invites Open tender on two packet system from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways: Tender notice No.: MTC/59 of 2019 (Open "e" tender), dated 27.11.2019.

Name of work: Maintenance and Operation contract (MOC) of Bio-toilet (ORDE Type) in Samastipur and Saharsa depots of Samastipur Division for three years. Tender value (in ₹): ₹5,51,75,377.97, Earnest money (in ₹): ₹4,25,900/-. Cost of tender document (in ₹): 10,000/-. Completion period of the work: 03 (Three) Years.

1. Receiving date and time for e-tender mode on IREPS web portal : 23.12.2019 upto 12.00 hrs. 2. Opening date and time for e-tender 23.12.2019 at 12.30 hrs. 3. web site, where complete details of tender and tender document can be seen on web site : www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (C&W)/ ECR/Samastipur
PR/1760/SPJ/Mech./T/19-20/36



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE




The Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.) / E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the president of India invites Open tender on two packet system from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways: Tender notice No.: MTC/58 of 2019 (Open "e" tender), dated 27.11.2019.

Name of work: Maintenance and Operation contract (MOC) of Bio-toilet (ORDE Type) in Darbhanga and Jaynagar depots of Samastipur Division for three years. Tender value (in ₹): ₹9,07,66,750.13, Earnest money (in ₹): ₹6,03,800/-. Cost of tender document (in ₹): 10,000/-. Completion period of the work: 03 (Three) Years.

1. Receiving date and time for e-tender mode on IREPS web portal : 23.12.2019 upto 12.00 hrs. 2. Opening date and time for e-tender 23.12.2019 at 12.30 hrs. 3. web site, where complete details of tender and tender document can be seen on web site : www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (C&W)/ ECR/Samastipur
PR/1762/SPJ/Mech./T/19-20/36



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE



The Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.) / E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the president of India invites Open tender on two packet system from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways: Tender notice No.: MTC/57 of 2019 (Open "e" tender), dated 27.11.2019.

Name of work: Maintenance and Operation contract (MOC) of Bio-toilet (ORDE Type) in Raaxal depot of Samastipur Division for three years. Tender value (in ₹): ₹37,07,891.24, Earnest money (in ₹): ₹3,35,400/-. Cost of tender document (in ₹): 10,000/-. Completion period of the work: 03 (Three) Years.

1. Receiving date and time for e-tender mode on IREPS web portal : 23.12.2019 upto 12.00 hrs. 2. Opening date and time for e-tender 23.12.2019 at 12.30 hrs. 3. web site, where complete details of tender and tender document can be seen on web site : www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (C&W)/ ECR/Samastipur
PR/1761/SPJ/Mech./T/19-20/36



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE




The Divisional Railway Manager (Mech.) / E.C. Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the president of India invites Open tender on two packet system from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways: Tender notice No.: MTC/56 of 2019 (Open "e" tender), dated 27.11.2019.


Name of work: Maintenance and Operation contract (MOC) of Bio-toilet (ORDE Type) in Raaxal depot of Samastipur Division for three years. Tender value (in ₹): ₹37,07,891.24, Earnest money (in ₹): ₹3,35,400/-. Cost of tender document (in ₹): 10,000/-. Completion period of the work: 03 (Three) Years.

1. Receiving date and time for e-tender mode on IREPS web portal : 23.12.2019 upto 12.00 hrs. 2. Opening date and time for e-tender 23.12.2019 at 12.30 hrs. 3. web site, where complete details of tender and tender document can be seen on web site : www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Mech. Engineer (C&W)/ ECR/Samastipur
PR/1761/SPJ/Mech./T/19-20/36



TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD COIMBATORE CIRCLE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FORM OF CONTRACT : "LUMPSUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
Tender Notice No.SCB/784/DB/2019 Dated: 29.11.2019



For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in 'B' cover are invited from the registered contractors under Class - I and above in TNSCB / Government Departments / Government undertakings / Public Sector Undertaking, registered as a legal entity in India by the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Selvapuram, Shivalaya Mahal (opp), Perur North, Coimbatore - 26, upto 3.00 PM on 31.12.2019 and the same will be opened at 3.15 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

S. No	Name of Work	Tender Value including GST Period of contract Rs. In Lakhs	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Construction of 512 four storied (G+3) tenements adopting T.D.27/2017&28/2017 with internal water supply, sanitary and electrification works in MGR Nagar in Kittasurapalayam village at Pollachi Taluk in Coimbatore District under Vertical - III (AHP) Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, HFA by 2022 CER.No.37 /HFA/2019 - 20.	3580.69 15 Months	1,810,000

The cost of tender schedule and EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's cheque/ fixed deposit from Nationalized / Scheduled Bank, payable at Coimbatore in the prescribed form in favour of Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, TNSCB, Coimbatore. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, TNSCB, Selvapuram, Shivalaya Mahal (opp), Perur North, Coimbatore - 26 on written requisition along with cost of the tender document to a value of Rs.17,700/- upto 3.00 PM on 30.12.2019.

1. The conditions and other details may be seen in the tender documents and also the same will be made available on all working days in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle TNSCB, Coimbatore - 26.

2. The tender documents are also available at www.tenders.tn.gov.in which can be downloaded at free of cost. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the web site till the preceding date of tender.

Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Selpapuram, Shivalaya Mahal(opp), Perur North, Coimbatore -26. Superintending Engineer Coimbatore Circle

DIPR/4678/Tender/19



Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.
A Government of Bihar Undertaking
SHORT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
for
SUPPLYING, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING & TESTING OF VERTICAL TURBINE, CENTRIFUGAL & SUBMERSIBLE PUMP SETS, PANEL BOARD, STARTER, CABLE, DIESEL DRIVEN C/F PUMPS, PORTABLE TROLLEY MOUNTED DIESEL DRIVEN C/F PUMPS, TRANSFORMERS, D.G.SETS, , MOTORIZED CRANES. ETC. WITH ALL REQUISITE ACCESSORIES FOR DIFFERENT DRAINAGE PUMPING STATIONS LOCATED IN PATNA TOWN.



NIT. No- BUIDCo/Co-1434/19-80

(Through e-procurement mode only – www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

There are 39 drainage/sewerage pumping stations situated at different locations in Patna town through which sewage water, waste water and storm drainage water are being pumped out. Different types of pumps are required on urgent basis for replacement, augmentation & for new proposed Drainage pumping stations. Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited invites EOI from Global leading manufacturers / authorised dealers of market leading brands only for Supplying, installation, commissioning & testing of Non-clog type Vertical Turbine, Centrifugal & Submersible pumps, Diesel driven C/F pumps, Portable trolley mounted Diesel driven C/F pumps, Transformers, DG sets, panel Starters, Motorised cranes. Manufacturers/ Authorised dealer with more turn over with Global and latest technology shall be first preferred. The participants shall have an opportunity to display their product brand, experience and turn over before Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited committee in support of their brand quality and highlighting their engineering efficiency.

All types of drainage pumps as mentioned above shall have SCADA system also.

Manufacturers / Authorised dealer/ Firms willing to participate in EOI shall have to get them selves registered to get user ID, password and Digital signature for submission of EOI by online only through e-procurement mode on website- <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>. The EOI queries shall be communicated at mbuidco@gmail.com or cebuidco@gmail.com.

(i) Bid processing fees (INR1180.00) to be paid by the bidder through online mode i.e. internet payment gateway (Credit/ Debit card), Net banking, NEFT/ RTGS.

(ii) Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-procurement portal www.eproc.bihar.gov.in before the date and time specified in the EOI. The department shall not be responsible for delay/ internet interruption, Network traffic jam/ Holidays or any other reason.

For clarification regarding EOI process, please contact e-procurement, Helpdesk, first floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800001, Telephone no.- 0612-2523006 Mobile No.- 07542028164.

Pre-proposal submission meeting : Venue- BUIDCo conference Hall Date- 26.11.2019, 3.00 PM

Last date & time for submission of EOI (In e-procurement portal) - 04.12.2019 up to 03.00 PM.

The EOI will be opened on the same day at 04.00 PM

The participants shall have to submit the following documents with EOI-
(a) Detailed particulars of the constitution, ownership, organizational structure and main activities of the organization
(b) Annual Turn over report or audited financial accounts for last 3 (Three) years.
(c) Details of similar nature of work / assignment executed/completed during last five years.
(d) Specific Engineering properties of their brands.

ELIGIBILITY:-
(1) The manufacturer with global market brand value of their product.
(2) The authorised dealer of global market brand products with sound experience in similar nature of work execution in Govt./ PSU.

Scope of Work:-
(1) The manufacturer should have latest generation & technology of their products.

Corrigendum - 1
Revised Bidding Schedule


SL. No.	Description	Schedule Date	Revised Date
1.	Pre-Proposal submission meeting, Venue: BUIDCo Conference Hall	26.11.2019 at 03:00 PM	03.12.2019 at 12:30 PM
2.	Last date and time for submission of EOI(In e-procurement portal)	04.12.2019 upto 03:00 PM	13.12.2019 upto 03:00 PM
3.	EOI will be opened	04.12.2019 at 04:00 PM	13.12.2019 at 04:00 PM

Chief Engineer,
Design, Planning & Monitoring,
BUIDCo, Patna


The other terms & conditions will remain the same.

BUIDCo office, KhadyaBhawan, 2nd floor, Daroga Prasad Rai Path,
R. Block Road No.-2, Patna-800 001
(Tel: 0612-2506109/208, Fax No.-0612-2506132 Email: pdhqbuidco@gmail.com)
PR No. 011524(NI.Ni.) 2019-20

अवेध शराव एवं मादक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत रॉल फ्री नं. 18004356268 या 15545 पर करें



NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE NO.07 DATE 29.11.2019
E-Mail:- cos@ner.railnet.gov.in • Fax.No. 0551-2200721
Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in



Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

S. No.	Tender No.	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Qty. Required	Earnest Money ₹
1.	22190608	16.12.19	Push Cook etc.	40088 Nos.	65,730/-
2.	29181032A	16.12.19	Tool Kit for EPM-143 mm etc.	1040 Set	61,800/-
3.	29191067	16.12.19	Base assembly Set for EPM etc.	720 Set	2,05,560/-
4.	28190960D	16.12.19	Thermal Paper Ticket Roll etc.	29463 Nos.	00/-
5.	29191062	17.12.19	Wire Rope Steel etc.	22450 Kgs.	71,840/-
6.	22170796B	19.12.19	V-Deep Groove Axle Pulley etc.	312 Nos.	1,23,460/-
7.	30191224A	20.12.19	SMF VRLA Battery	1519 Nos.	1,41,240/-
8.	30191060A	20.12.19	PVC Insulated etc.	4683 Mtr.	53,050/-
9.	22180213C	30.12.19	Axle Box Front Cover etc.	7503 Nos.	93,430/-
10.	28191061	06.01.20	PU Paint Kit etc.	517 Set	96,310/-
11.	28190467	06.01.20	Paint R/M Red Oxide	40162 Ltr.	61,610/-
12.	28190651	06.01.20	Paint enamel synthetic exterior etc.	50784 Ltr.	75,510/-
13.	22191318	16.01.20	Aluminium Distributor etc.	123 Nos.	70,910/-
14.	22191172	16.01.20	Break beam complete etc.	4304 Nos.	2,18,820/-
15.	22190198	22.01.20	Foot Plate etc.	1490 Nos.	74,780/-

Note: Reserved to be procured from: For S.N. 1 to 5, 7 & 15: NIL, For S.N. 6, 8, 9 & 14: ICF, For S.N. 10 to 13: RDSD
CPRD/S-46
Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"





Vital move

The Election Commission on Friday recognised the Jannayak Janta Party as a state party of Haryana



Why this hurry to discuss my reincarnation

— the Dalai Lama

Tibetan spiritual leader

SHORT TAKES

SEDITION CHARGE AGAINST HDK

Bengaluru, Nov. 29: Police have booked former chief ministers Siddaramaiah and H.D. Kumaraswamy along with the then Bengaluru police commissioner T. Sunil Kumar, his subordinates and some Congress and JD(S) leaders on sedition charges for protesting the income tax raids during Lok Sabha polls.

Based on a complaint by activist Mallikarjuna A, a city court recently directed the Commercial Street Police to register a case under various sections of the IPC including criminal conspiracy and attempting or abetting waging war against the Government of India, police said.

The case relates to protests near the I-T office here by the leaders including the then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy against the Income Tax raids at the residence of Congress and JD(S) leaders. The charges are that Kumaraswamy had informed public about the possible raids after getting inputs about the action. Kumaraswamy had told the media on March 27 that there was every likelihood of raids as a large number of central security forces had arrived at Kempegowda International Airport.

TOP COURT RELEASES NEW ROSTER

New Delhi, Nov. 29: The Supreme Court has released a new roster of work saying that PILs would now be heard by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde and three other senior most judges of the apex court.

In the roster of allocation of work that took effect from November 26, CJI Bobde has kept Public Interest Litigations and letter petitions to himself along with Justices N.V. Ramana, Arun Mishra and R.F. Nariman.

The new roster is slightly different from the last time when the outgoing CJI Ranjan Gogoi had kept PIL matters for top five judges of the apex court, including the CJI.

Besides PIL matters, CJI Bobde has kept with him matters of contempt, election, habeas corpus, social justice, direct and indirect tax cases, among others. The CJI will also be dealing with criminal matters and cases related to commissions of enquiry, company law, Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practices, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India and the RBI, among others.

200-YR-OLD DOCUMENTS FOUND

Kolkata, Nov. 29: A locked iron chest, containing some rare documents and possibly dating back to 200 years, was found at Sanskrit College and University here during a clean-up operation, its vice-chancellor Soma Bandyopadhyay said on Friday. She said that the chest, bearing the name of an old UK manufacturer of such chests and caskets, was found on Wednesday in a room closed for a long time during a drive to trace dumped objects which may have archival value.

After unlocking the chest on Friday afternoon, eight sealed envelopes were found containing cheque books of banks of the British period, documents of allowances given to widows during the time of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar when he was the principal of the institute and initiated the move for women's empowerment, Bandyopadhyay said.

"Three silver medals and documents regarding assets of the institute were also found," she said.

Jharkhand goes to polls today



Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das greets his supporters during an election campaign rally for the forthcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections at Chakradharpur in West Singhbhum district on Friday. — PTI

A LOWDOWN ON FIRST PHASE

THIRTEEN CONSTITUENCIES IN JHARKHAND WILL GO TO THE POLLS ON SATURDAY IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ELECTIONS.

Seats

Chatra, Gumla, Bishunpur, Lokhardagga, Manika, Latehar, Panki, Daltonganj, Bishunpur, Chatraour, Hussainabad, Garhwa, and Bhawnathpur.

Tough challenge

Political analysts keeping a tab on the election preparations in Jharkhand are of the view that the BJP may face tough challenges from its opponent Jharkhand Mukti Morcha which has formed a grand alliance with the Congress and the RJD. Hemant Soren-led JMM is considered a tough opponent with a stronghold in the tribal belt of the state.

Where does Oppn stand

The opposition Congress is contesting six seats, the JMM four and RJD on three seats. Meanwhile All Jharkhand Students Union which had contested in alliance with BJP in 2014, is contesting alone on three seats.

Challenges to Raghubar Das

Primary challenges faced by Chief Minister Raghubar Das and his party this time would be the Naxal issues, human trafficking and growing unemployment in the state.

Crucial for BJP

The first phase is also crucial for the ruling BJP because it had won six out of 13 seats during the 2014 Assembly elections. The JMM and the Congress had bagged one seat each and the JVM-P had won two seats.

189 candidates are in fray in the first phase.

12 number of seats BJP is contesting

Plea against Pragya comes up for hearing

Pragya is one of the accused in 2008 Malegaon blast case

New Delhi, Nov. 29: The Supreme Court on Friday said it would hear after two weeks a plea challenging the Bombay High Court's April 2017 order granting bail to Pragya Singh Thakur, one of the accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case.

Thakur, now a sitting BJP MP, was granted bail on April 25, 2017 by the high court which said "no prima facie" case was made out against her in the case.

Seven people were killed in a bomb blast on September 29, 2008 at Malegaon, a communally-sensitive textile town in Nasik district of north Maharashtra.

The plea, filed by the father of one of the blast victims, came up for hearing before a bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar. The apex court said it would hear the matter after two weeks. Petitioner Nisar Ahmed Haji Sayed Bilal, father of one of the blast victims, has alleged in his plea that Thakur was a "powerful person" and could influence the witnesses in the case. "The high court failed to appreciate that Pragya Singh Thakur is an influential person and is likely to wield her power and influence in an illegal and unlawful manner to tamper with evidence and influence witnesses," he has said in his plea.

It has claimed that there was ample evidence against her, and "her role, involvement and complicity in planning and executing the conspiracy for committing Malegaon blast is writ large on the case record".

The petition said she had been denied bail by a special court in Mumbai sev-

RAHUL STANDS BY HIS TWEET

From Page 1

Earlier in the House, she had said she respects and pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi for his contribution to the country. Ms Thakur also said: "One member has publicly termed me a terrorist, though I have not been convicted by the court... It is an insult to a woman and a sadhvi," and added that making such remarks too was against the law. Thakur is an accused in the Malegaon blast case.

Embarrassed by her remarks, the BJP's top leadership summoned Thakur on Friday morning. In Parliament, BJP working president J.P. Nadda and parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad

Joshi met her, after which it was decided she would read the statement in the Lok Sabha. At this meeting, sources said, it was also decided she will move a breach of privilege notice to the Speaker against Rahul Gandhi for calling her a "terrorist".

Sources said Ms Thakur later moved a privilege notice against Gandhi in the Lok Sabha for calling her a "terrorist". The Speaker will later take a call on whether to admit the notice.

Outside Parliament, Rahul Gandhi brushed aside Ms Thakur's attack on him and asserted that he stood by his remarks accusing her of being a "terrorist". He said he was ready to face any action.

er with evidence and influence witnesses," he has said in his plea.

It has claimed that there was ample evidence against her, and "her role, involvement and complicity in planning and executing the conspiracy for committing Malegaon blast is writ large on the case record".

The petition said she had been denied bail by a special court in Mumbai sev-

eral times — in 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2016 — on the ground that "a prima facie case is clearly made out against her".

A Special Mcoca (Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act) court had earlier ruled that the ATS had wrongly applied Mcoca in the case against Thakur, co-accused former Lt Col Prasad Purohit and nine others. — PTI

MLA THREATENS TO BURN PRAGYA ALIVE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 29

A ruling Congress MLA of Madhya Pradesh has triggered an usavoury row by threatening to burn alive controversial BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur for portraying Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse as patriot.

MLA from Biora in Rajgarh district Gobardhan Dangi dared Pragya to set foot in his constituency, saying, "We will burn her alive". "We will not just burn her effigy.... If she sets foot here, we will burn her alive", the lawmaker said while staging a demonstration in Rajgarh late on Thursday in protest against the attempt by Pragya to glorify Godse.

Meanwhile, two people, who had proclaimed them as 'devotees' of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse, were on Friday arrested in Gwalior for hurting sentiments of followers of the Father of Nation.

Uddhav floor test today; pro tem Speaker named

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 29

The Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra will face a floor test in the Assembly on Saturday — as decided at the alliance government's first Cabinet meeting on Thursday night.

Senior NCP leader Dilip Walse-Patil was, meanwhile, appointed pro tem Speaker of the Assembly on Friday.

Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis accused the government of trying to change the pro-tem speaker "illegally". Fadnavis said the Shiv Sena, the Congress and the NCP were not confident about their majority, and so had kept their MLAs in five-star hotels.

Ambegaon MLA Patil, serving his seventh term as a legislator, replaced the BJP's Kalidas Kolambkar, who was appointed as pro tem Speaker earlier when the MLAs were administered the oath.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said the new government had decided to stay the construction of the metro car shed project in the city's green lung, Aarey Colony, after widespread protests last month over the cutting of trees there.

■ **AMBEGAON MLA PATIL**, serving his seventh term as a legislator, replaced the BJP's Kalidas Kolambkar, who was appointed as pro-tem speaker earlier when the MLAs were administered the oath.

Speaking to reporters soon after formally taking charge as CM at the Mantralaya, Thackeray said not a single leaf will be cut until further notice.

It should be noted that the Sena had been at the forefront of opposing the car shed at Aarey. It had also proposed Kanjur-marg as a possible alternative site for the car shed.

The election of a full-fledged Assembly Speaker is likely to be held on Sunday, but the Congress has still not decided the name of its candidate.

As per the agreement between the three parties, the deputy chief minister's post was given to the NCP and the Speaker's post went to the Congress.

"We are expecting names from the Congress by tomorrow (Saturday) morning as the forms for the election will have to be filled tomorrow itself. Once the names are

finalised by the Congress leadership in Delhi, one of them will be chosen as the MVA's official candidate. We have already completed the rest of the formalities and only the candidate's name remains to be written on the form," NCP leader Ajit Pawar said.

Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis attacked the new government, alleging that it preferred discussing proving a majority at its first Cabinet meeting rather than giving relief to farmers.

The former CM said the state wanted to know why the MVA was "scared" when it earlier claimed to have the numbers to prove its majority on the floor of the Assembly.

"The new government preferred discreetly discussing how to prove its majority than giving help to farmers who are in trouble at its first Cabinet meeting. Why make claims of having numbers then," Fadnavis asked on Twitter.

Thackeray held his first Cabinet meet on Thursday night, hours after being sworn in as CM. Along with him, six other ministers — two each from the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — were also sworn in.

Raut predicts big shake-up in Goa

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 29

Buoyed by its success in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena on Friday dared the BJP that the Maha Vikas Aghadi experiment would be repeated in Goa.

Sena leader Sanjay Raut made the announcement in the presence of Goa Forward Party (GFP) leader Vijay Sardesai and MLAs Jayesh Salgaonkar and Vinod Palayekar, who were in Mumbai to meet the Rajya Sabha MP Like the Sena, both the GFP and MGP are former BJP allies.

Raut told media persons, "There will definitely be an earthquake. Sardesai is here with all his MLAs. Some other MLAs, who have backed the (BJP) government, are in touch with us. There will be a big movement across the country.

You will soon see a big movement in Goa, where a government has been founded on immoral grounds.

After Maharashtra, it's the time of Goa now."

Raut claimed that he had already spoken to Maharashtra Gomantak Party's (MGP) Sudin Dhavalikar in this regard.

Raut said, "A (non-BJP) front is being formed with Sardesai in Goa... like we did in Maharashtra. BJP pointed fingers at us that we went with the Congress and NCP. But in Goa, BJP formed the government with those facing corruption charges and the people of Goa did not like it. Hence, former minister Sardesai has come with us." In the 2017, the Congress emerged as the single-largest but failed to form the government.

5 scientists injured in blast at FSL

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, NOV. 29

Five scientists and an attendant at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Madiwala in the city sustained injuries on Friday after an explosion during the chemical analysis of material seized in Raichur last year.

The explosion occurred at the Chemistry Lab on the first floor of the FSL building around 3 pm while the scientists were analysing the chemical. The injured were rushed to St. John's Hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

According to sources, a

chemical reaction is suspected to have triggered the blast while the scientists were testing the explosive material seized from a blast site in Yarmaras on the outskirts of Raichur city on October 5, 2018.

The injured scientists have been identified as Srinath (36) from Kolar, Navya (29), Basavaprabhu (27), Vishwanatha Reddy (33) and Manjunath Babbalakatti (33). The lab attendant was identified as Anthony. Srinath is said to be critical after sustaining injuries on the head, hands and upper torso. The police said that the six injured included new recruits.



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

SRI LANKA GETS \$50MN TO FIGHT TERRORISM

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 29

Announcing a new \$400 million line of credit to Sri Lanka for infrastructure development, and a separate "special" \$50 million line of credit to help Sri Lanka boost its fight against terrorism and also swift activation of an earlier announced \$100 million for solar projects in the island nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday — after holding extensive talks with visiting Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa here on Friday — said both countries "should be alert to each other's security concerns and sensitivities".

Both countries also decided to further strengthen bilateral ties.

Perhaps in a veiled reference to India's concerns over the earlier movement of Chinese submarines in Sri Lankan waters and also the fast increasing Chinese footprint in the island nation, President Rajapaksa is understood to have assured Modi that "India will remain his top priority and that he will not allow any third force to come in between cooperation" of the two countries.

The assurance comes in the wake of China's growing influence in Sri Lanka and perceived earlier proximity of the Rajapaksa brothers (President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa) towards Beijing.

The lines of credit announced by India are also being seen as an effort to counter the Chinese financial muscle in the island nation.

The Sri Lankan President also apparently conveyed to Mr Modi that he would also work for the economic development of Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces that have a significant Tamil population.

■ **THE LINES OF CREDIT** announced by India are also being seen as an effort to counter the Chinese financial muscle in the island nation.

HEALTH | MATTERS

Both NC leaders, under detention for 116 days, undergo angiography

Two detained J&K leaders rushed to hospital

Srinagar, Nov. 29: Two senior National Conference (NC) leaders, who have been under preventive detention for the past 116 days following the abrogation of Article 370 provisions, were rushed to a government hospital here where they underwent angiography on Friday, the party said.

NC general secretary and former minister Ali Mohammed Sagar and former party MLA from Gnderbal constituency Ishfaq Ahmed, along with 32 other political detainees, were recently moved to the

MLA Hostel from Centaur Hotel. Their families have alleged that the MLA Hostel lacked proper heating arrangements required in "harsh" winter conditions of Kashmir Valley.

The party's Lok Sabha member from Anantnag constituency Hasnain Masoodi wrote to the principal secretary (home) of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the two leaders had undergone angiography at the premier Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical

Sciences (SKIMS). Urging the administration to consider shifting the duo to their homes after discharge from the hospital, Masoodi, a retired high court judge, said they suffered from ailments of heart and needed constant medical care.

Officials confirmed that Sagar and Ahmed complained of chest pain and they were shifted to the hospital where they underwent cardiac tests.

The families of the detained political leaders said that during their incarceration at the hotel

and subsequently at the MLA Hostel, the detainees were not allowed to go for walk and were confined largely to their rooms.

Expressing grave concern over the deteriorating health of several political leaders due to lack of facilities at the places they have been lodged under detention in these harsh and chilly weather conditions in the Valley, senior National Conference leaders issued a statement seeking detailed medical bulletin of all the detainees on a daily basis. — PTI

28 MILITANTS' ASSOCIATES ARRESTED IN KASHMIR VALLEY, SAYS POLICE

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, NOV. 29

In a stepped up campaign against alleged Over-Ground Workers (OGWs) and active sympathisers of separatist militants, the Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested as many as 28 persons across the Union Territory (UT) over past one month. A statement issued by

the police here on Friday said that the accused were running six terror modules which were busted jointly by it, the Army and other security forces during this period.

"The coordinated efforts by the security forces have mounted tremendous pressure on the terrorists and their OGWs, leading to the arrest of 28 OGWs," the statement said.

DECCAN

Chronicle

30 NOVEMBER 2019

Making history: But can Uddhav keep govt afloat?

History was made in Maharashtra Thursday when Uddhav Thackeray took the oath as the state’s chief minister, becoming the first Thackeray to become head of the state government since the Shiv Sena’s founding in 1966 by Mr Thackeray’s redoubtable father Balasaheb, who ran the Sena as a tight outfit steeped in regional chauvinism politics, with dollops of majority community chauvinism, and one that did not balk at street violence to gain its ends.

It’s fair to say that since Balasaheb’s death in 2012, Uddhav Thackeray’s politics has been somewhat more moderate. Nevertheless, he too didn’t omit to raise the communal pitch in the Sena’s competition with the BJP, which in due course became the senior partner of the BJP-Sena coalition which ended recently after a quarter century.

The new CM is partnering the NCP and Congress after he walked out of the BJP alliance over severe intra-coalition trouble with that party. It has naturally become a matter of great political curiosity if the Sena leader will be able to provide a stable government in association with the secular Congress and the secular but wholly pragmatic NCP, a breakaway Congress outfit with roots in Maharashtra.

A coalition of similar parties also faces serious problems. The erstwhile BJP-Sena association is but a recent example. The BJP’s ties with several secular parties in other states point in that direction. Dr Manmohan Singh’s UPA government faced intense difficulties with its secular allies that frequently sided with the BJP in Parliament to embarrass the Congress. In Britain, the Tories and Labour have had coalition trouble when they teamed up with the Liberal Democrats.

In contrast, in recent years the Congress had fruitful ties with the DMK, although the former was deeply suspicious of the Tamil Nadu party after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In the end, much depends on how each partner observes what the late Atal Behari Vajpayee called “coalition dharma”. The coalition government Mr Thackeray leads has arrived at a common minimum programme which, besides policy questions, has also conceptually emphasised “secularism”.

Some may mock this while others may see a sign of hope. If the first Thackeray, who is yet to enter the legislature, is to seek to stay in office for a full five-year term, he may be obliged to be a moderate and shift away from divisive chauvinist and communal politics. The compulsions of office may play some part in holding the ship together.

On the other hand, spoilers could emerge from the NCP or the Congress on questions of pressing for a greater share of power, and not from the Sena. As NCP leader Ajit Pawar last weekend thought nothing of joining hands with the BJP, who is to say the BJP may not once again seek to explore if he is the weak link of the Thackeray government? Even so, it can’t be assumed the Thackeray show is doomed to flop.

Stop Godse ‘normalisation’

Though Parliament expunged her remark, Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur’s referring to Nathuram Godse as a *deshbhakt* (patriot) is condemnable. One, the man who assassinated Father of the Nation M.K. “Mahatma” Gandhi was not a patriot but a majoritarian nationalist. This distinction is critical for these times when the ruling right wing tries to conflate the two for its political purposes. Two, Godse was a killer, found guilty by a court of independent India and hanged; he was no martyr. Gandhiji, on the other hand, was a political mobiliser the like of which India has not seen.

Yet terror accused Pragya Singh, like many other rightwing radicals — some have bizarrely shot a pistol at Gandhiji’s photo — continues to champion an insidious agenda that aims at slowly chipping away at Gandhiji’s metaphorical statue. She and her fellow fringe elements have time and again tried to rehabilitate Godse — in 2014 some of them unveiled Godse’s bust in Meerut on Gandhiji’s birth anniversary — and that she was elected by a large margin to the Lok Sabha from Bhopal would make it seem that her constituents endorse her sinister utterances. We hope that not to be the case.

It is fitting that the ruling party dropped her from the parliamentary consultative committee on defence, and that she is not allowed to attend BJP parliamentary party meetings this session. It is appropriate that she apologised in Parliament. But there’s a nagging suspicion that these mere slaps on the wrist will not deter the lunatic fringe’s continuing efforts to “normalise” Godse by repeatedly airing him in the public limelight. Which is why it is not enough to condemn her remarks; society has to ensure that Godse is returned with finality to the dustbin of history. Will our current political leadership take such a necessary step? It is doubtful.

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ADITYA SINHA

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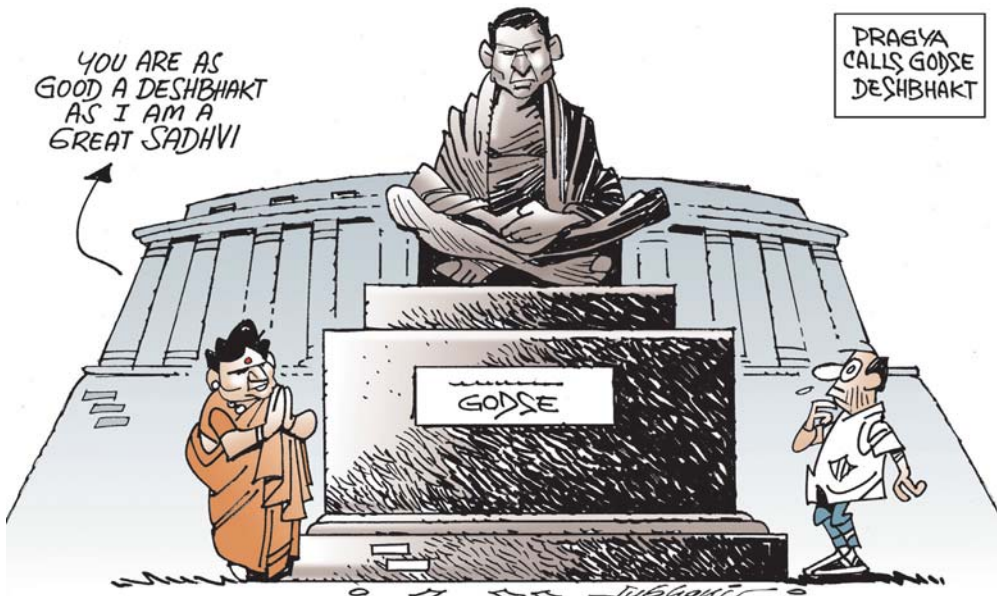
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Subhani



Can Kovind live up to his true role as Prez?



Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay

A cartoon by Abu Abraham during the 1975-77 Emergency depicted then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed sitting in a bathtub filled to the brim with water and in an obvious stage of undress. He was shown as turning back and reaching to an outstretched hand bedecked in a formal suit and shirt — obviously someone who is wearing a Rashtrapati Bhavan uniform. The hand was holding a piece of paper which, after signing, Ahmed is returning along with the pen provided to him. The text, attributed to Ahmed, says it all: “If there are any more ordinances, just ask them to wait.”

At a time when the media was throttled, only brave cartoonists had their way. Abraham’s cartoon was a comment on the manner in which Indira Gandhi acted late at night and forced President Ahmed to sign the ordinance proclaiming the Emergency well past working hours. The phrase “rubber stamp” President owes much of its origin to Ahmed’s blind loyalty to Mrs Gandhi and his decision to sign the proclamation without demur or at least asking the PM to reconsider if such an unprecedented step was indeed warranted.

The process of lifting President’s Rule in Maharashtra to pave the way for the BJP’s Devendra Fadnavis to be sworn in for the second time despite not having the numbers with him showed that constitutional norms were bypassed for political considerations. At least three institutions which are expected to function within the framework of the law and follow precedents did not do so — first, the governor, Bhagat Singh Koshyari;

second, the Prime Minister’s Office and, finally, President Ram Nath Kovind. The fact that that the gazette notification ending Central rule in the state was digitally signed by the Union home secretary at 5.47 am meant that the system had been subverted once again — the pre-dawn signature showed that the official machinery was at work through the night.

The nation’s constitutional head didn’t satisfy himself of the “emergency” that required the PMO to send the recommendation to Mr Kovind at a time when he would either have been sleeping or had barely woken up. The President, sadly, simply signed on the dotted line without satisfying himself about the tearing hurry that necessitated not summoning a Cabinet meeting to ratify the Prime Minister’s decision to lift Central rule and pave the way for the governor to invite Mr Fadnavis to assume charge as chief minister. With the office of the President and the PMO already compromised, the last check could have been put by Mr Koshyari. He could have scrutinised Mr Fadnavis’ claims and evaluate if Ajit Pawar actually had the backing of the MLAs of the NCP. The governor, after all, had been a politician in the politically turbulent state of Uttarakhnad and been chief minister under trying circumstances, and is well-versed in the art of horse-trading which goes on in the name of government formation after a hung verdict. Undoubtedly, the governor too failed to do adequate homework and failed in his constitutional duties.

This is the second instance after the re-election of this government in May that President Kovind acted more like a former BJP leader and

less as the nation’s constitutional head. In August, the President enabled the government overnight make massive constitutional alterations in the status of Jammu and Kashmir. It was argued that Mr Kovind could have asked the government to be either reconsider its decision or be more consultative in its approach. Instead, he allowed the Prime Minister’s interaction with him to be a mere “item” listed in the to-do list, captured by an observant photographer who spotted home minister Amit Shah carrying papers in a manner that they could be read at close quarters.

The Constitution of India vests the President with the duty “to aid and advise” (Article 74) the Cabinet. Although it expects him to use authority and influence under certain circumstances, the actual decision-making process is left with the Cabinet. The President, as well as the governors, are the main protectors of the Constitution. Yet another cartoon drawn by cartoonist Ashok Dongre during the Emergency depicted India Gandhi with a leader of the CPI, her then ally, by her side. She is looking with exasperation at a huge copy of the Constitution, and the CPI leader’s advice is simple: “Liquidate it”. In 1998, shortly after he became Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee initiated an exercise to review the Constitution. But the cascade of reservations from multiple quarters, including President K.R. Narayanan, forced conversion of the initiative into a simple assessment of the Constitution’s functioning. Yet, the

This [the lifting of President’s Rule in Maharashtra] is the second instance after the re-election of this government that Mr Kovind acted more like a former BJP leader and less as the nation’s constitutional head

episode added to doubts over the commitment of the BJP and its associates to uphold the document in its present form.

President Kovind, in his conduct, possibly needs reminding that he took an oath to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law”. In contrast, the Prime Minister is only committed to “bear true faith and allegiance” to the Constitution. In many ways, K.R. Narayanan, our first dalit head of state, is the perfect role model for any future President. He once confessed that initially he was unaware of the power his oath conferred on his office. Like his predecessors, he considered that there was little to do and he was a titular head. After assuming office, he understood the weight of the oath and realised that a President could do a lot if he opted to follow his pledge in letter and spirit. The operative part was: “I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India.” Narayanan, and to a great extent A.P.J. Abdul Kalam too, used that power to act like a “working President”.

Narayanan had stated that his post could be “used with a philosophy of indirect approach”. He continued that were “one or two things” that could be done directly “in very critical times”. The President, he felt, could exert “indirect influence” on affairs of state and believed “there must be some equation between the people and the President”. Even Dr Rajendra Prasad observed that “people do look upon” the President as someone with “authority in the governance of the country”. This influence could be justified only “by tendering such advice and giving such suggestions as he considers necessary”. It is for Mr Kovind to decide if he has done any of these or has he become a President in the tradition which Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed set.

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist and author. His latest book is RSS: Icons Of The Indian Right.

LETTERS

TARGET WOMEN

The number of crimes against women is increasing. Girls are being kidnapped, raped and disposed of and it just becomes a news report over the morning cup of tea or a script for a new episode of a TV serial. There is no fear, no guilt and no public outrage in Telangana state. Today’s news that veterinarian Dr P. Priyanka Reddy could have been saved is inconceivable and terrifying.

Fatima Shaheen Shikoh
Hyderabad

It is becoming more and more distressing to read the local news these days, with so many young women getting raped and killed in a gruesome manner. Further, the spurt in road accidents involving inexperienced and reckless bus drivers makes for a heart-breaking morning read. It appears that Hyderabad is after all on its way to becoming the second (crime) capital of India.

N. Sridhar
Hyderabad

Atrocities against women continue unabated. It is a sad commentary that the CCTV camera at the place of ghastly incident was not being maintained properly. The Telangana police must think of ways for a patrol party to locate and reach any area quickly once a woman in distress sends a code from a cellphone.

Dr K.V.N. Durga Prasad
Hyderabad

Hang the culprits who are involved in the Dr Priyanka Reddy murder because they should not repeat the crime in future.

M. Anwer Ali Khan
Hyderabad

HEARTLESS CITY

The picture of two senior citizen crossing the road shows that no one is coming to their rescue (*Pedestrians’ nightmare, Nov. 28*). People are really not bothered about others. Respect and manners have disappeared.

Marium Khan
Hyderabad

I am happy that you have been focusing on the violation of traffic rules. We feel sad when the traffic police imposes heavy fines but nobody realises they are violating the rules like uncivilised people. We are attaching too much importance to reaching in time but not to reaching safely.

Mahesh Ch
Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

Rafia Zakaria



Is Trump’s US giving cover to those guilty of war crimes?

Chief Special Warfare Operator Edward ‘Eddie’ Gallagher is a man of many sins. According to military prosecutors in the United States, Gallagher is responsible for brutally stabbing and murdering a teenage so-called Islamic State (IS) fighter, using his sniper rifle on ordinary Iraqi citizens, and boasting about racking up his ‘kills’ to others.

To top it all off, Gallagher is also guilty of taking a triumphant photo of himself with the young IS fighter that he killed. Gallagher was tried and convicted by a military court earlier this year, and was to be deprived of his rank and booted out of the US Navy SEALs.

President Donald Trump could not tolerate this. Despite having been told by top military and defence officials that he should leave the issue alone and allow the navy to handle what happened to Gallagher, he decided to intervene and reverse war criminal Gallagher’s demotion. This angered the naval secretary who was

made to step down. The whole story is important because it can easily be considered as a metaphor for how American power is likely to operate in the next decade.

First, it is of course not ‘news’ that the United States, either via its armed forces or via other officials, cares little for the lives of brown and black people in places such as Pakistan or Afghanistan or Iraq. The massive death toll in the Iraq and Afghan wars, the crushing depravity of Abu Ghraib, the torture carried out on suspected terrorists at the CIA black sites, are only the incidents that we know of. Others in greater numbers may also have taken place, their perpetrators never caught and their victims never avenged. In simple terms, the exercise of American power in the past two decades has been brash and brutish.

And yet those pre-Trump era years represent the ones in which there were still limits to American power. In the past decades, the United States, as the liberal democratic

giant of the world, tried, at least in name, to toe the line of the rule of law and the enforcement of human rights principles. Many, or even most, times it failed, but it did appear to try. Human rights reports were regularly issued by the US state department and officials routinely considered the records of every country around the world. In sum, American foreign policy at least tried to pay some level of lip service to human rights and fair play.

The next decade is going to be different. The US may be making an exit from expensive ground wars, but the use of its special forces to carry out missions such as the killing of IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi are all examples of what American warfare will look like in the future.

Condoning the deeds of a man like Gallagher further suggests that US civilian leadership, particularly if the presidency stays with the Republicans, is going to be completely unfettered in the mayhem it

inflicts on enemies real or imagined. Donald Trump pardoned Gallagher because he has little patience for the rules and procedures that are supposed to ensure how American soldiers exercise their power.

In his simple and murderous world, might makes right — and America has plenty of might. With this worldview he is likely to provide carte blanche to any and all exercises of American power, regardless of whether or not they are humane. The weakening of liberal limits on the exercise of power that began under former president George Bush will now lead to complete evisceration under President Trump.

The future of the US is likely to be illiberal. The restoration of the rank of a man who did not fight fairly and the commander-in-chief’s disregard for the lives of non-white peoples is likely to be a fixture of American foreign policy in the future.

Already, the US has set about eliminating foreign aid to non-Christian places. Aid to Gaza and the West

Bank has been indefinitely discontinued; already disbursed aid to Iraq has been left without proper administrators. The liberal constraints that would have functioned as a buffer against overt discrimination against aid-recipient countries based on their religion are no longer regarded as such.

The cumulative impact of these developments requires Pakistan to be very vigilant of the kind of help it accepts from the US in the near future. The chances that Donald Trump will be re-elected appear to be good. Despite being quite far into the process, the Democratic Party is struggling to find a candidate strong enough to beat him. Impeachment is also guaranteed to fail in the US Senate. If President Trump has in his first term been pardoning war criminals, he in his second term is likely to be even more erratic. The most prudent path would be to maintain a safe distance.

By arrangement with Dawn

A pile of discarded clothes on the floor of a person's room

Extreme diversity, particularly with respect to the ethnic and racial mix of a population

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 30 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Oped

Maha ghotala and ‘Gondhal’ in Maharashtra...



Shobhaa's Take

Forget about the grandly titled Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra for the moment. It is obvious to all that what we are witnessing is a *maha ghotala*, with a strange bunch of people getting together to form a government by hook or by crook (more crook, less hook) with just a single-point agenda — power-grabbing. It is nothing more than a moneymaking opportunity for most of them. Sharad Pawar has outfoxed everyone, including Mota Bhai Amit Shah and emerged as the wildest of them all. This may have come as a surprise to those

who have not followed Pawar's trajectory (clearly, his nephew Ajit Pawar forgot a few key chapters), but close observers of the Maratha strongman will be able to trot out hundreds of incidents from the past which stand testimony to his cunning and guile. Nothing wrong with any of this — which successful politician can survive without employing both? Now with Mr Pawar being in such an enviable position, it will be interesting to monitor all the new real estate deals that get sealed while this lot is in power. A few days before the dramatic swearing-in ceremony, I was attending an evening of Sufi music on the lawns of our historic museum in Mumbai. There on stage was an aston-

ishing performer from rural Maharashtra. He was leading his troupe of traditional Gondhal artistes (mainly from Pandharpur) with infectious zest and energy. Nandesh Umap sang devotional songs, but with an earthy, naughty twist. He himself was dressed in a floor length angarkha created out of 50 m of handspun fabric (maybe this authentic costume had inspired designer Rohit Bal?). The rough translation of "Gondhal" is "confusion". Several threads create a revue-like performance, which provides a sharp commentary on life and issues. "Gondhal" is entertaining all right. But it is not mere "entertainment". It can also be watched as a satirical critique on society. Nandesh sang an old favourite of mine — "*Vinchhoo Chawala*". Vinchhoo is the Marathi name for the deadly scorpion. And "chhawala" means a bite. We know what happens when a person gets bitten by a scorpion — right? Listening to the lusty rendition of the old hit (frequently performed by lavni dancers), my mind kept wan-

The optics were there for all to see and deconstruct. Uddhav Thackeray lay prostrate on the stage, bowing to the people of Maharashtra after taking the oath. It shows humility. Not the quality one associates with the Shiv Sena.

dering to what was going on a few kilometres from where I was seated. A farcical new government had been announced — that's what. No, not the latest one with Uddhav Thackeray as chief minister, but the earlier crazily shortlived one featuring Devendra Fadnavis. Here's the question: Who was the scorpion and who the victim? That there was a maha "gondhal" going on, with Maharashtra's pliant and very accommodat-

mier state felt totally let down and betrayed. We'd been had! The story remains unchanged today. We have seen two swearing-in ceremonies within a week. Fadnavis' aborted second term lasted for 80 hours. And let's not forget Ajit Pawar as his deputy! What a monumental joke! But nobody is laughing this time. Mumbaikars are known to shrug, grin and get going with their lives in the metro. But this time, the mood has shifted from being philosophical to being outraged. Who enjoys being taken for a ride? That's the exact sentiment right now, as we wait for more *tamasha*. Will Ajit Pawar be back in the saddle as deputy chief minister? How's the haggling going for more ministerial berths — who'll bag what once the monies are in place? What happened to Aaditya Thackeray's boasts saying he was 100 per cent ready to take on the responsibility as — listen to this — Maharashtra's chief minister? It's okay, honey. Daddy-O got the job, *na?* It's all in the family. Relax, *bachchey*.

The night of the swearing-in, I was attending the 50th year celebrations of the iconic NCPA. The opening day event was a gala concert featuring musicians and dancers from overseas, and of course, our very own Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI), which in a remarkably short period of time, has established itself globally. After watching graceful dancers from the Abay Kazakh State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre enchant the audience (special mention: Malika Yelchbayeva as The Swan), I got talking with a few prominent Mumbaikars. Some had managed to catch a few clips of the ceremony on television, some had deliberately skipped watching the pantomime. But everybody without an exception expressed disgust and concern about the state of Maharashtra's politics. Whether Uddhav and the Thackeray family move out of Balasaheb's stronghold "Matoshree" and into "Varsha" — the official residence of the chief minister — is not important. We want to

know what Uddhav's plans are for the immediate future. How will we benefit as citizens? Patience is running out. On that lawn at Nariman Point, as we mingled with the cosmopolitan crowd, made up of so many different nationalities, it was easy to lull ourselves from facing the stark reality of "convenience store" politics being played out at another historic venue — Shivaji Park, less than 10 km away. The irony was not missed by anybody. The optics were there for all to see and deconstruct. Uddhav Thackeray lay prostrate on the stage, bowing to the people of Maharashtra after taking the oath. It is a good gesture. It shows humility. Not the quality one associates with the Shiv Sena. If Uddhav's gesture does indeed go beyond symbolism and a great photo-op, at least it can be taken as a positive start to what one sincerely hopes is a government that will work for the good of the people. *Jai Maharashtra!*

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

Govt admits that it lied about donors asking for secrecy



Nitin Sethi

This is the 6th and last part of the #PaisaPolitics investigative series by HuffPost. Reprinted with permission from the Huffington Post.

In 2017, when finance minister Arun Jaitley unveiled electoral bonds, a secretive way for anonymous corporates, individuals and trusts to funnel money to political parties, he justified his decision, claiming, "Donors have also expressed reluctance in donating by cheque or other transparent methods as it would disclose their identity and entail adverse consequences".

Since then, members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have repeatedly raised the spectre of these unnamed donors who had asked for anonymity. Union minister Piyush Goyal made the same point at a press conference called to address *HuffPost India's* investigation into electoral bonds.

"Donors were reluctant to declare their political contributions due to fear of political retribution," said a press note circulated by the BJP immediately after Goyal's press conference.

Three years since Jaitley's speech, after bonds worth ₹6,108.47 crores have been given to political parties by anonymous donors, the finance ministry has now admitted that no donor ever told the government to create an opaque system of funding political parties.

"No representation or petition or communication

has been received from the donors, regarding the need for maintaining the confidentiality of their identity while making donations to political parties," the finance ministry admitted in response to a Right to Information request filed by Venkatesh Nayak.

The ministry, it is worth noting, was forced to respond to the RTI and did not do so out of its own volition. Nayak filed the RTI application in July 2017. Under the law, the ministry was required to respond in 30 days. Instead, Nayak's application was first met with radio silence for a month. When he appealed against this stone-walling, the finance ministry resorted to another delaying tactic. It bounced Nayak's application around from department to department for five months.

In January 2018, Nayak finally approached the Central Information Commission, which ordered the finance ministry to provide an answer. It took another year and ten months for Nayak to finally get his answer: no one had approached the government to create a secretive route for funding political parties. Former FM Jaitley had stated yet another lie in Parliament to legitimise the creation of electoral bonds.

If Nayak's RTI quest proved that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had not received any formal representations for electoral bonds, Commodore (Retd.) Lokesh Batra's tranche of electoral

ELECTORAL BONDS-6

Batra's RTI inquiries revealed how the RBI, the EC and several Opposition parties had bitterly opposed the bonds. The papers revealed how ministers in the Modi government had lied to Parliament about the bonds.

bond-related documents, also obtained using the Right To Information, revealed what appears to be an informal representation by an unknown author.

The note, as *HuffPost India* has previously noted, was printed on a plain sheet of A4 sized paper with no date, letterhead, signature or stamp.

"Government record systems do not permit such unsigned documents by officials," said an official within the finance ministry, who wanted to stay anonymous, referring to the unsigned note. "It is likely that someone did write or suggest the idea of anonymous donations. The department of economic affairs has not asked all departments, such as the department of revenue about it. The department of revenue began this exercise. All the documents on the conceptualisation of the bonds are perhaps still not available".

For Batra, the transparency activist, the explosive revelations he uncovered are testament to the power of the RTI Act. An act that the Modi government is doing its best to defang.

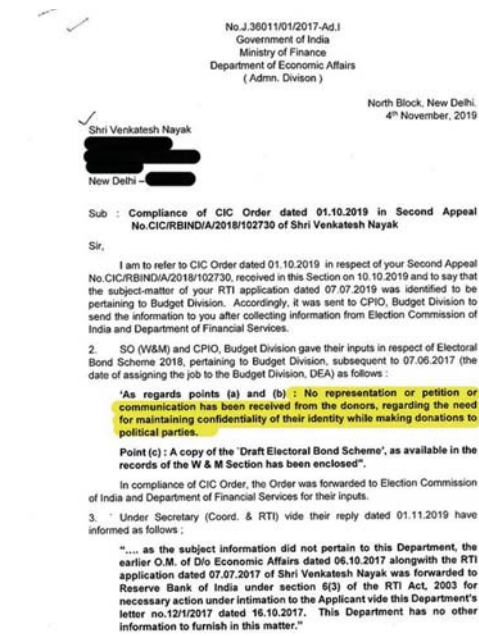
"It was mind-boggling that while the BJP claimed it was introducing electoral bonds for the sake of transparency in electoral funding, it, along with other political parties, refused to

fall in line with the CIC Order of 2013," Batra said.

The 2013 order placed political parties under the purview of the RTI Act, and would have ensured transparency in political funding, Batra said. "Hence it was important for me to know the full facts of the FM's proposal on transparency in political funding".

In the event, Batra's RTI inquiries revealed how the Reserve Bank of India, the Electoral Commission and several Opposition parties had bitterly opposed the bonds. The papers revealed how ministers in the Modi government had lied to Parliament about the bonds, that the Prime Minister's Office had broken the finance ministry's rules to open a special window for electoral bonds, and that the finance ministry broke its own rules when it allowed for expired bonds to be exchanged.

These disclosures have prompted a fresh flurry of questions:



The reply to Venkatesh Nayak's RTI request

Which department in the finance ministry conceptualised the electoral bonds, and how?

Was the law ministry consulted at all while the amendments were being planned to various laws to give effect to electoral bonds, as is the practice?

Why did the Election Commission not pursue its objections to the bonds with the government after it did not hear back for over a year from the latter about it?

And why did the government bury the Commission's letter containing the objections in the first place?

Yet now, the act that made these disclosures possible is itself under attack. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has diluted provisions to the RTI Act, and securing answers to questions such as those posed above could become yet more difficult.

■ Concluded

Cambridge flashback: Of life and times with Clive James



Farrukh Dhondy

Cabbages & Kings

"In the beginning was the word The single word was 'OM' It represented the big bang Under the universe's dome It was as though the heavens sang To bring a message home..." From A Bend in the Liver by Bachchoo

Clive James died last week — and you may be wondering, gentle reader, who the hell Clive James was. Or perhaps you do know him as a poet and have seen him reading and boasting at some literary festival.

To me he was someone who showed me small kindnesses when I left India at the age of 20 and came with great expectations and mild apprehensions to Cambridge University.

My first day at Pembroke College was uncomfortably memorable. The train from London was delayed owing to trouble on the track. I was consequently late for my first tutorial appointment and felt immediately wrong-footed by fate.

Nevertheless, I soon acquainted myself with college routines and at dinner in the 16th century wooden-beamed "Hall" made the acquaintance of an Australian undergraduate, also a "fresher", who struck up a conversation exchanging names, countries and courses. We walked out of dinner together and this John Hay encountered Clive James and two American undergraduates in the Junior Common Room. Being the only other fellow Australian, he introduced himself to Clive and soon, including me in the group of "foreigners", we went off to the pub a few streets from the college. Clive bought me my first drink of beer.

He was a talker, and though my circle of friendship increased in the following weeks, this group of Australians, Americans and myself met routinely in Hall. He could talk about anything, from Tom Paine to Tom Mix.

A few weeks into the term, I got into an altercation with someone who, without the least provocation, shouted some racist abuse at me and when I turned to challenge him, caricatured what he took to be an Indian accent. I think I gave as good as I got and turned to walk away when he grabbed me and attempted to kick me. Other undergraduates stopped the scuffle.

The incident was the subject of gossip through the college. At dinner Clive asked me what had happened, and recounting the escapade, I said, "He tried to kick me in the groins".

John Hay immediately said, "Where was the other one?" and the group, all except Clive, laughed at my mistake. Of course I knew that groin was singular but, searching for the right euphemism confused it with "loins" and it came out as a plural.

"F*** them," Clive said. The laughter stopped. I said I meant "groin" and Clive asked, "But did he get you in the groins?" and so I laughed and the moment of awkwardness passed.

Clive, having done a degree in Australia and spent time working between universities, was five or six years older than the rest of us undergraduates and, together with his fellow Australian, Germaine

Greer, became one of the prominent figures in Cambridge. He was all over the place, writing for and acting in *The Footlights*, the university's satirical review platform.

He was an active organiser of events and approached me to participate on two occasions.

The first was a reading of the poets of the 1930s — Auden, Spender, McNeice, etc. I was assigned several poems of C. Day Lewis, only realising later that Clive and the other readers thought my Indian accent was closest to that of Day Lewis' Welsh.

Clive was obviously aware of which side I took in the great international political controversy of the day — the American Vietnam War. He had organised an Oxford-Cambridge debate on the war with Oxford being for the American presence to stop the spread of Communism and Cambridge being for the Vietnamese and Ho Chi Minh.

Our side took the debate seriously as did two of the three speakers from Oxford. The last of these, in a mockingly satirical mood, treated the subject as a joke and as an allegory of cowboys and Indians. It was clever and marginally funny but desperately irreverent to the subject and to the audience's concerns.

We won the debate overwhelmingly, but I can't help wondering to this day if the irreverent speaker was the Rhodes scholar later to become a very clever, if not-perfectly-behaved, President of the United States.

In the late 1960s, very many poetry societies existed in Cambridge, as they probably do today. Clive read his poems at these societies and distinguished himself and alienated the other poets by insisting that verse should be metrical and musical and by writing in strict if inventive rhyme. He openly mocked the free-verse practitioners as talentless versifiers — not exactly the way to win friends and influence poets.

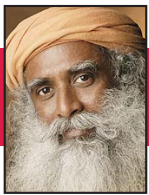
In my final year, I inherited the role of editor of a poetry magazine called *Carcanet*. In its second edition, I featured 12 poems by Clive as I thought they were the best of the submissions we had received. The literati of the university didn't like it and my editorial preference certainly earned me a few enemies.

In later years, our paths crossed at TV occasions. Clive was a famous, controversial presenter, though the volume of his biography covering these years is entitled *The Blaze of Obscurity*.

In these years Clive visited India and wrote a book about it which he called a "novel". A British newspaper asked me to review it. I did and wasn't very kind. When we next came face to face he mentioned the review but then conversed as though it hadn't happened, recalling Cambridge days.

In his last years, knowing he was suffering from leukemia, he wrote three books with morbid ironic titles about waiting for the end. I recalled some of what I've written above in the last chapter of my autobiography *Cambridge Company* as an affectionate letter to Clive. When in Cambridge, I cycled to his house to give him a copy. He was very ill and I wonder if he read it.

Why do we celebrate festivals?



Sadhguru

In Indian culture, there was a time when there used to be a festival every day of the year — 365 festivals in a year — because a festival is a tool to bring life to a state of exuberance and enthusiasm. The entire culture was in a state of celebration. If today was ploughing day, it was a kind of celebration. Tomorrow was planting day, another kind of celebration. Day after tomorrow was wedding, that was a celebration. Harvesting, of course, is still a celebration. But in the last 400 or 500 years, poverty has come to our country, and we have not been able to celebrate every day. People are satisfied

if they just get some simple food to eat. So all the festivals fell away and only 30 or 40 festivals remain. We are not even able to celebrate those now because we have to go to the office or do something else daily. So people usually celebrate only around eight or 10 festivals annually.

Nowadays, unfortunately, a festival means they give you a holiday, and you wake up only at 12 noon. Then you eat a lot and go for a movie or watch television at home. It wasn't like that earlier. A festival meant the whole town would gather in a place and there would be a big celebration. A festival meant we got up at four in the morning, and very actively, lots of things happened all over the house.

To bring back this culture in people, Isha celebrates four important festivals: Pongal or Makarasankranti, Mahashivaratri, Dussehra and Diwali. If we don't create something like this, by the time the next



generation comes, they will not know what a festival is. They will just eat, sleep and grow up without concern for another human being. All these aspects were brought into Indian culture just to keep a man active and enthusiastic in so many ways. The idea behind this was to turn our whole life into a celebration.

If you approach everything in a celebratory way, you learn to be non-serious about life but absolutely involved. The problem with most human beings right now is, if they think something is important, they will become dead serious about it. If they think it is not so important, they will become lax about it — they don't show the necessary involvement.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, an internationally renowned spiritual leader, is a visionary, humanitarian, author, poet and speaker. He can be contacted at www.ishafoundation.org



Not ready yet

The Taliban said it was way too early to speak of resuming direct talks with the US, a day after Trump suggested negotiations during a surprise visit to Kabul

World

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Britain would leave the European Union by January 31 at the latest

— Boris Johnson
British PM

SHORT TAKES

INDIAN ORIGIN BROS JAILED IN DRUG CASE

London: Two Indian-origin brothers have pleaded guilty to participating in the activities of an organised crime group, which was involved in smuggling millions of pounds worth of illegal drugs into the UK via a series of front companies linked with the importation of chicken from the Netherlands.

Manjinder Singh Thakhar and Davinder Singh Thakhar pleaded guilty after being caught following an investigation by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and will be sentenced in January next year.

Two ringleaders of the Birmingham-based organised crime group, Wasim Hussain and Nazrat Hussain, have been jailed for a combined sentence of around 44 years after a trial at Birmingham Crown Court this week.

"Throughout the course of this investigation, which has gone on for more than three years, we have systematically dismantled an organised crime group that was involved in the importation and distribution of Class A drugs across the West Midlands," said Colin Williams, NCA.

"As well as drugs, the gang also attempted to source firearms, presumably to be used to threaten others in support of their criminality," he said.

— PTI

40 Iraqi protesters slain in 24 hrs

Heavy response against demonstrators by a Iran-backed govt. escalates tensions

Baghdad, Nov. 29: Security forces shot dead 40 anti-government protesters during 24 hours of bloodshed amid spiraling violence in the capital and Iraq's south, security and medical officials said, one day after an Iranian consulate was torched.

Iran condemned the burning of its consulate in the holy city of Najaf as violence continued into the night across southern Iraq, where security forces had killed 36 protesters and wounded 245 since Wednesday evening, the officials said. Another four protesters were shot dead in the capital.

Police and military forces were deployed across key oil-rich provinces to re-open roads closed off by demonstrations.

The escalating violence and heavy response against demonstrators by a largely Iran-backed government threatened to intensify tensions, especially if efforts to implement electoral and anti-corruption reforms fail to placate protesters.

Crisis committees were created to enhance coordination between Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi and governors in provinces affected by the protests "for the importance of controlling security and enforcing the law," said a statement from the joint operations command.

Security forces shot four protesters dead in Baghdad and wounded 22 when they tried to cross the important Ahrar bridge leading to the nearby Green Zone, the heavily fortified seat of Iraq's government. Protesters occupy parts of the Jumphuriya, Sinak and Ahrar bridges, all of which lead to or near the fortified area.

In Najaf, five protesters were fatally shot and 32 wounded when security



Anti-government protesters set fire while security forces close Rasheed Street during clashes in Baghdad, Iraq.

— AP

forces opened fire to prevent them from torching a central mosque named after the father of a prominent political leader, officials said.

The deaths came a day after protesters burned the Iranian consulate in Najaf. It was one of the worst attacks targeting Iranian interests in the country since the anti-government protests erupted two months ago.

The unrest in Iraq began on Oct. 1, when thousands took to the streets in Baghdad and the predominantly Shiite south. The largely leaderless move-

ment accuses the government of being hopelessly corrupt and has also decried Iran's growing influence in Iraqi state affairs.

Iraq PM To resign

Iraq's embattled premier announced Friday he will resign in keeping with the wishes of the country's top Shiite cleric, after nearly two months of anti-government protests that have cost more than 400 lives.

Adel Abdel Mahdi's written statement was greeted with cheers and blaring music across Baghdad's

I will submit to the esteemed parliament a formal letter requesting my resignation from the premiership.

ABDUL MAHDI,
Iraq Prime Minister

iconic Tahrir (Liberation) Square, where crowds have amassed since early October against a ruling class deemed corrupt and inefficient. Celebrations broke out in Tahrir, where young protesters began dancing.

— Agencies

CLERIC WARNS AGAINST CHAOS, WORSENING CRISIS

Baghdad, Nov. 29: Iraq's top Shiite cleric is warning of civil war after a deadly day of violence in which security forces shot dead 40 people, calling on lawmakers to "reconsider" their support for the current government.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani says the parliament that voted the government of PM Adil Abdul-Mahdi is "invited

to reconsider its choices in that regard," in his weekly Friday sermon delivered in Najaf.

Al-Sistani also said protesters should distinguish between peaceful demonstrators and those with have malign intentions to coopt their movement. Forty protesters were shot dead by security forces in Baghdad and the cities of Najaf and Nasiriya.

— AP

LIVE RICH

FINANCIAL Chronicle

Snapdeal bets on non-metro markets

Sum insured limit cut for standard health policy

Market tanks over growth worries

ASHWIN J. PUNNEN
MUMBAI, NOV. 29

The Sensex tanked over 300 points, as investors turned cautious before the release of the GDP growth numbers on Friday post-market hours.

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell from record highs as investors scrambled to book profits in recent high-flying stocks amid fears that India's second quarter GDP numbers may slip further.

The Sensex plunged 336.36 points or 0.82 per cent to close at 40,793.81. The index swung about 466 points during the day. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty also settled 95.10 points, or 0.78 per cent, down at 12,056.05.

Weak cues from global markets also weighed on the market mood, analysts said.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex advanced 434.40 points, or 1.07 per cent, while the Nifty rose 141.65 points or 1.18 per cent.

Investor sentiment during the week was mainly driven by positive news about US-China trade talks progress—which took a disturbing turn on Thursday—and more government measures to boost consumer demand.

■ Criminals, Govt agencies can access data; threat to women's safety

FASTags pose serious data privacy and security threat

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 29

FASTags that are soon going to be mandatory for all vehicles passing through National Highway toll booths pose a data privacy threat to the vehicle owners. It can also be a serious security threat for women owners.

FASTag is no more an option for vehicle owners but a mandatory requirement. But with FASTags it is possible to access the ownership and other data pertaining to the owner and it will be easy for tracking a vehicle not just by government agencies and other stakeholders of

the system, but for private persons as well since RFID readers are easily available in the market at very low cost. "Worldwide, mass warrant-less surveillance of cars is a major human rights issue," finds Fennel

Aurora, Security Advisor at F-Secure, a Finnish cyber security company. "Worldwide, this is mainly implemented via far more invasive and non-optimal automatic number-plate recognition (APNR) via pervasive video surveillance cameras. There is a movement across the US of local governments trying to pass ordinances banning

police departments from buying this kind of technology," he said.

According to Aurora, depending on the implementation, it may be possible for persons with malicious intent to use a cheap RFID scanner to obtain sensitive information about vehicle owners from the tag by walking past parked cars and this information can be used for further crimes.

"Potentially the payment information could be retrieved, and fake payments forced to pass onto the linked account. Tags could be cloned to use on the criminals' vehicle—a form of identity theft," he

said.

For women owners, there is an additional threat. If the name/gender of the vehicle owner is available, this can be a significant risk for women who can be more easily tracked and targeted by violent men waiting near identified cars, he said.

"The tag is primarily a unique signature and the data is out there. Being a privacy enthusiast, it is my top most priority to ensure that my data remains protected. FASTag should be an option and not forced upon individuals," said Farrhad Acidwalla, Founder, Cybernetiv Digital.

According to Sunil Sharma, Managing Director—Sales, India & SAARC, Sophos, all the software systems can be breached and FASTags also carry the cyber security threats that any software system carries.

"Given the widespread security, privacy, safety, and corruption issues around the Aadhar system, there are obvious reasons to doubt this new system also. Like many similar convenience measures that come with built-in surveillance, one has to wonder whether the few seconds saved is worth the potentially extreme costs."

Future Group stocks soar over CCI nod to Amazon

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, CHENNAI, NOV. 29

Shares of Future Group companies rallied on Friday after the Competition Commission of India on Thursday approved the Amazon-Future Coupon deal.

The deal is expected to help Future Group strengthen its online sales and Amazon expand offline reach in India through

Future Group's retail stores.

Future Group owns close to the 2,000 retail stores, covering over 24 million sq ft of space in over 400 cities and towns. The group's owns Big Bazaar, Central, Brand Factory, and FBB stores along with a growing chain of neighbourhood stores, EasyDay and Heritage Fresh, and convenience stores WH Smith and 7-Eleven.

DHFL issue at NCLT

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 29

The RBI on Friday sent debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) to the bankruptcy tribunal, making it the first financial services company to be sent to the NCLT for a possible debt resolution after the government notified the rules for referring NBFC/HFC to the tribunal this month.

A few days back, the RBI had superseding the Board of DHFL and

appointed an administrator on concerns over its corporate governance and defaults. The central bank has filed the application to begin insolvency proceedings against the mortgage lender with the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

An interim moratorium shall commence from the date of filing of the application till its admission or rejection, the central bank said in a statement.

As of July 2019, the third largest pure play mort-

gage lender owed Rs 83,873 crore to banks, the National Housing Board, mutual funds and bondholders, including retail bondholders. Of this secured debt is ₹74,054 crore and unsecured debt is ₹9,818 crore.

The government on November 15 had empowered RBI to refer stressed NBFCs and HFCs with assets worth at least Rs 500 crore to insolvency courts after notifying Section 227 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Gold hallmarking a must from 2021

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 29

The government will make hallmarking for gold jewellery and artifacts mandatory from January 15, 2021. The Department of Consumer Affairs will issue a notification in this regard by January 15, 2020.

In order ensure quality of gold jewellery and gold artifacts sold across the stores in the country, government will bring in mandatory hallmarking. Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Friday. A one-year period will be provided for implementation of this decision to enable jewellers clear their existing stock, he said.

However, the stock lying with the consumers will not be subject to hallmarking. Bureau of Indian Standards provides hallmarking of gold jewellery in three grades—14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat. Retailers will have to display prices of these three quality grades at their shops and selling of non-hallmarked jewellery after the deadline will attract a fine of a minimum Rs one lakh and up to five times of the value of article as well as one year jail.

At present, there are 877 assaying and hallmarking centres in 234 district locations and 26,019 jewellers have registered with BIS. The government plans to open hallmarking centres in all districts of the country and register all jewellers during this one year



■ The stock lying with the consumers will not be subject to hallmarking. One year will be given to jewellers to clear old stock.

■ Selling of non-hallmarked jewellery after the deadline will attract a fine of a minimum ₹1 lakh and up to five times of the value of article as well as one year jail.

window. *Financial Chronicle* on Friday had reported that the government had notified to World Trade Organisation its intention to bring in mandatory hallmarking. However in the notification, the government had not specified the date as to when it would publish this in the official Gazette.

According to Somasundaram PR, managing director, India, World Gold Council, almost 40 to 50 per cent of the gold in the market are hallmarked.

"It would take 8 to 12 months to get the rest of the stocks to be hallmarked. Government is likely to keep this in mind while announcing the deadline," he had said.



Lifeline

Sri Lanka name former skipper Dinesh Chandimal in the squad for a two-match Test series in Pakistan

Games

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It was just amazing to be out there with Davey and to put on a really big partnership.

— Marnus Labuschagne, Australian batsman after an unbroken 294-run stand with David Warner

SHORT TAKES

Warner, Marnus slam centuries

Adelaide: David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne both plundered back-to-back centuries as Australia stamped their authority on the opening day of the day-night second Test in Adelaide on Friday.

At the close on a rain-interrupted day, the home team were a dominant 302 for one with the pair building an ominous 294-run partnership, leaving Pakistan with a huge battle to stay in touch.

Warner was not out 166 and Labuschagne unbeaten on 126, following on from their 154 and 185 respectively in the first Test at Brisbane. Their Adelaide partnership was the highest ever in a day-night Test.

"It's a bit surreal at the moment. It was just amazing to be out there with Davey and to just put on a really big partnership," said Labuschagne. "Really happy. We were running hard, I love the intensity of the crease," he added.

— AFP

BRIEF SCORES

Australia 302/1 in 73 overs (D. Warner (batting) 166, M. Labuschagne (batting) 126; Afridi 1/48) vs Pakistan.

Latham's ton gives Kiwis a solid start

Hamilton: Tom Latham's unbeaten hundred and his century stand with Ross Taylor laid a solid foundation for New Zealand before rain brought an early end to day one of the second Test against England in Hamilton on Friday. Latham was on 101 when the rain swept in, just three deliveries after the tea break with New Zealand 173 for three. While Latham played down his 11th Test century as "nice", England were left to regret dropping the left-hander on 66 and not meeting expectations after winning the toss and bowling first. "On day one if you get a team six or seven down by the close you've probably had a pretty good day," said Chris Woakes who took two of the three wickets to fall. Woakes was added to the line up to give them five seamers on a wicket renowned to assist the side bowling first. Instead England toiled for little reward, saw Ross Taylor benefit from a dubious decision during a century partnership with Latham and lost the use of Ben Stokes as a bowling weapon. — AFP

Brief scores: New Zealand 173/3 in 54.3 overs (T. Latham (batting) 101, R. Taylor 53; C. Woakes 2/14) vs England.



Chirec International School boys are all smiles after winning the Under 12 title at the 25th Padma Bhushan Col. C. K. Nayudu junior cricket tournament at the Sports Coaching Foundation in Masab Tank, Hyderabad. In the final, Chirec beat SCF Blues by five wickets.

Chirec, SCF cricket champs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 29

Chirec International School defeated SCF Blues in the under-12 final at the 25th Padma Bhushan Col. C. K. Nayudu Junior Cricket tournament held at the Sports Coaching Foundation in Hyderabad. Chasing 55 runs for a win, Chirec reached the target with five wickets in hand and with an over to spare.

Anirudh top-scored with 19. Earlier, Abhi Raj picked up 3/18 to restrict SCF Blues to 54/4. Anil top-scored for SCF with 21. Meanwhile in the U-14 final, SCF Blues defeated Chirec International by 25 runs to win the title.

With the help of Nihal's 20 and Barkadh's 16, SCF posted 69 for the loss of one wicket in their stipulated overs.

In the second innings,

Ibrahim shone with the red cherry, picking 4/22 as Chirec were bowled out for just 44 in seven overs.

Ibrahim and Abhi were named man of the match in the under-14 and under-12 finals respectively.

Brief Scores: ■ U-12 final: SCF Blues 54/4 in 10 overs (Anil 21, Abhi Raj 3/18) lost to Chirec International School 55/5 in 9 overs (Anirudh 19). Man of the Match: Abhi Raj. ■ U-14 FINAL: SCF Blues 69/1 in 10 overs (Nihal 20, Barkadh 16) bt Chirec International School 44 in 7 overs (Ibrahim 4/22). Man of the Match: Ibrahim.

It's all in mind

Dravid says mental health is a challenge and it is important to maintain balance



Rahul Dravid

New Delhi, Nov. 29: Former India captain and batting great Rahul Dravid feels maintaining good mental health is a "big challenge" in a "tough game" like cricket and players should strike a balance in everything they do to overcome the stress of busy schedules and uncertain futures.

Dravid, who is the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Director, said it is difficult to cope when one spends a considerable time on the sidelines.

"It is a big challenge. This is a tough game. There is so much competition, a lot of pressure, and kids are playing all year round now. It is a game in which you do sometimes spend a lot of time waiting around, having a lot of time to think," he said when asked for his take on the issue.

Three Australian cricketers, including the seasoned Glenn Maxwell and young Will Pucovski, recently took a break from the game, citing mental health issues.

India skipper Virat Kohli lauded Maxwell for opening up on the subject and recalled a time in his own career when he battled "end of the world" thoughts but struggled to

communicate them. Dravid, who is mentoring India's young cricketers in multiple roles, said stiff competition demands that players pay enough attention to their well-being.

"...you really need to look after yourself on and off the field, and look after stuff like mental health. That's again something that, as much as we talk to these boys about, it's really important to maintain a certain level of balance in everything you do," he said.

"Be able to find that balance between not getting too excited when you succeed and not getting too disappointed when you fail. I just think being able to lead a slightly balanced life potentially helps."

Dravid said as NCA Director, he has been trying to put a system in place where professional help is at hand when a player needs it. "There has been some work on that as well, wherein eventually we'll get to a point where hopefully we should have professionals on board. Some of these things need to be handled by professionals," he said.

"I don't think some of the coaches have the ability to deal with some of the issues. Some things we might be able to, but there may be some things where we might need to look at professional help."

"It's one of the things we are definitely keen on doing at the NCA: giving some of these boys access to some level of professional help if they do require it."

— PTI

Mithun scalps five in an over as K'taka reach final

Surat, Nov. 29: Pacer Abhimanyu Mithun, openers Devdutt Padikkal and KL Rahul starred as defending champions Karnataka romped into the final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy after thrashing Haryana by 8 wickets in the first semi-final here on Friday.

Karnataka will now face Tamil Nadu, who defeated Rajasthan by seven wickets in the second semi-final, in the summit clash, to be played on Sunday.

The highlight of the Karnataka-Haryana match was Mithun (5/39) taking five wickets in an over including a hat-trick and registering his name in the record books.

Mithun became the first bowler in the domestic circuit to claim hat-trick in all the formats. He had snared a hat-trick in the Vijay Hazare (national ODI championship) final against Tamil Nadu earlier this year.

The right-arm speedster did not have a good time until he bowled his last over in which he wreaked havoc. In the 20th over, he dismissed Himanshu Rana (61) and Rahul Tewatia (32) off the first two balls and completed his hat-trick by sending back Sumit Kumar (0). There was more drama in store as Mithun got a wicket on the fourth ball, that of Amit Mishra (0), and then sent back Jayant Yadav (0) on the final ball of the over. Asked to bat first, Haryana piled up 194/8 on the board but Karnataka chased it in 15 overs, thanks to blazing half centuries by openers Devdutt Padikkal (87) and Rahul (66), who took the opposition attack to the cleaners.

For Haryana, opener Chaitany Bishnoi (55 off 35 balls; 7x4, 1x6) and Rana (61 off 34 balls; 6x4, 2x6) shone with the bat, while Harshal



Abhimanyu Mithun took five wickets including a hat-trick.

BRIEF SCORES (SEMIFINALS)

Haryana 194/8 (Himanshu Rana 61, Chaitanya Bishnoi 55; Abhimanyu Mithun 5/39) lost to **Karnataka 195/2** (Devidutt Padikkal 87, K.L. Rahul 66; Harshal Patel 1/28). **Rajasthan 112/9** (Rajesh Bishnoi 23, Ravi Bishnoi 22 not out; Vijay Shankar 2/13) lost to **Tamil Nadu 116/3** (Washington Sundar 54 not out; R Ashwin 31; Deepak Chahar 1/11).

Patel (34 off 20 balls; 6x4, 1x6) and Tewatia (32 off 20 balls; 6x4) also played their parts to perfection. Haryana were going all guns blazing at 192/4 when Mithun pagged them back with his fine effort with the ball.

The chase was a walk in park as Paddikal and Rahul conjured a 125-run stand for the first wicket in just 9.3 overs to lay the foundation stone of the win.

Tamil Nadu bowlers dished out a clinical show to restrict Rajasthan to a meagre 112/9 after putting them to bat. For Rajasthan, barring two-down Rajesh Bishnoi (23), no batsman showed signs as the south-

ern outfit grabbed wickets at regular intervals. A patient unbeaten 22 by number nine batsman Ravi Bishnoi helped Rajasthan cross the 100-run mark.

For TN, all-rounder Vijay Shankar (2-13) was the pick of the bowlers. Tamil Nadu then rode on a gritty unbeaten 54 by all-rounder Washington Sundar as they overhauled the target with 2.1 overs to spare. Sundar played a responsible knock as he held the innings from one end. India's key spinner R Ashwin, in a surprise move, opened the batting and scored valuable 31 runs off 33 balls. After Ashwin departed, Sundar took the side home.

— PTI



West Indies celebrate with the trophy after winning the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

— AFP

Afghans blown away by Windies

Allrounders Russell, Bravo left out of limited-overs squads for India series

Lucknow, Nov. 29: Giant spinner Rakheem Cornwall starred as the West Indies thrashed Afghanistan by nine wickets early on day three of their one-off Test on Friday.

Cornwall took a match haul of 10 wickets as the West Indies bowled out Afghanistan for 120 on day three and reached their target of 31 to seal the win in just over an hour of the first session in Lucknow.

It was a reality check for Afghanistan, who were awarded Test status in 2017 and won their first two victories in the five-day format earlier this year. Skipper Jason Holder claimed all three Afghan wickets to fall in the morning as the Windies needed just 7.1 overs to see off Afghanistan after they resumed the day on 109 for seven.

"Really important win. We had a tough series against India. Was important to finish the year well," said Holder, whose team suffered a 2-0 whitewash against India at home in August and September.

"Very pleasing to see new guys come in and take the opportunity. Shamarrh (Brooks) did that. He scored a fifty in the last innings and followed it with a hundred here. And then Rakheem getting seven in the first innings, in just his second Test, is amazing."

John Campbell made an unbeaten 19 and sealed the win with a boundary

BRIEF SCORES

Afghanistan 187 & 120 (Ibrahim Zadran 23, Javed Ahmadi 62; Rakheem Cornwall 3/46, Jason Holder 3/20, Roston Chase 3/10) lost to **West Indies 277 & 33** (J. Campbell (not out) 19, S. Hope (not out) 6; Amir 1/5).

after losing his opening partner Kraigg Brathwaite for eight off Amir Hamza.

But it was the Cornwall-led spin attack that dismantled Afghanistan on day two as they collapsed from 53 for no loss to 109/7.

WE ARE STRUGGLING, SAYS RASHID

Opener Javed Ahmadi top-scored with 62 before becoming the final wicket to fall on day two, which earlier witnessed the West Indies take a lead of 90 as they were 277 all out.

Shamarh Brooks made 111 — his maiden Test century — to extend West Indies' dominance after the minnows were bowled out for 187 on the opening day, largely thanks to Cornwall's 7/75.

Left-arm spinner Amir remained the only bright spot for Afghanistan with his five-wicket haul on Test debut as he returned figures of 5/74.

"I think, what I've seen, we've been struggling in the longer formats. Especially in batting. That's the only area we need to improve," said Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan.

— AFP



West Indian players Sherfane Rutherford (from left), Evin Lewis and Nicholas Pooran at a promotional event in Mumbai on Friday.

— PTI

West Indies trying to adapt to Indian pitches: Rutherford

Thane, Nov. 29: Gearing up for next month's T20 series, West Indies all-rounder Sherfane Rutherford on Friday said his team has been trying to adapt to the Indian pitches and would look to put up a good show against India.

"I am happy to get the opportunity. Preparation have been coming along well, we had a lot of time to train and to get some work done. So over the past few days we have been putting in some hard work and are looking forward to give our best against India,"

Rutherford said. "Most of the Indian pitches are good wickets to bat on. We have been working on adapting to the pitches so we can improve our game. I don't think players are thinking too much about the World Cup or IPL, it's just about performance and everything else will follow from there."

The Windies team has been based in India for the last one month, playing their bilateral series against Afghanistan which featured three ODIs, three T20s and a one-off Test.

— PTI



Rewarded

Aston Villa manager Dean Smith signs a new four-year contract with the Premier League club

Games

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Advantage India

Ram, Sumit win to give India 2-0 lead against Pak

Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), Nov. 29: A ruthless India raced to a 2-0 lead in their Davis Cup tie for the loss of just two games as Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal toyed with their teen rivals from Pakistan, here on Friday.

In a mismatch of epic proportion, Ramkumar double-bageled 17-year-old Muhammed Shoaib in just 42 minutes in the opening singles.

The only time Shoaib made it look like a match was in the sixth game of the second set when he stretched Ramkumar to two deuce points.

Sumit Nagal then earned his first-ever Davis Cup win, beating Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman 6-0, 6-2 in the second singles which lasted 64 minutes.

Pakistan badly missed their top players who pulled out, protesting against shifting of the matches to a neutral venue.

"I gave my best in every point. We are happy with 2-0 on the first day. Now we are looking forward to see Jee (Jeevan) and Leander fire some bombs tomorrow. Let's get the job done," said Ramkumar, who also thanked fans who had gathered to support them.



Members of the Indian team pose after Day One's play at Davis Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Friday.

While the first match was not even a contest, promising Pakistani youngster Hufaiza resisted Nagal as much as possible by engaging the Indian in long rallies.

Twice he pushed Nagal to deuce points in the second game of the second set and finally put Pakistan

on board by holding the third game after squandering four game points.

He returned and dished out another hold, staying close to Nagal.

However, it just delayed the inevitable as Nagal wrapped up the match in the eighth game. "I started decent and finished it pret-

ty strong. Both of us (he and Ram) had lot of fire today. We did not want to lose. They are juniors but they played well and did whatever they could. The guy I played came up with some really good shots. He played to his potential but has a long way to go," said Nagal.

"Tomorrow it's going to be pretty similar (scoreline)," said Nagal.

India's non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal too was pleased with the performance.

"It is a fantastic day for India. Ram gave us a nice start, winning in quick time. The second match was little tighter and tough, though it looked simple. Sumit kept the level high and came through with flying colours," he said.

Veteran Leander Paes and debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan will now look to seal the tie when they clash with Hufaiza and Shoaib in the doubles rubber on Saturday.

India have never lost a tie to Pakistan in six meetings so far and the trend does not look like changing.

A win on Saturday will stretch Paes' record for most number of doubles wins in Davis Cup history. He is leading the chart with 43 wins.

"It will be interesting to see how the Pakistan youngsters cope with our world class players. Let's see how it goes," said Rajpal. The winners of the tie will travel to Croatia for the World Group Qualifiers, to be held on March 6-7.

Second best



G. Sai Karteek Reddy (left) receives the runner-up trophy from C. V. Anand (centre), IPS officer, at the All India national ranking tennis held at Lake View Tennis Academy in Hyderabad. In the final, Karteek lost to Tamil Nadu's Siddhartha K.S. Arya in straight sets 4-6, 4-6, to settle for the second place.

Hyderabad rally for draw in ISL

Hyderabad, Nov. 29: An injury time strike by Robin Singh helped 10 man Hyderabad FC salvage a draw against Bengaluru FC in a thrilling Hero Indian Super League tie here.

A second minute strike by Sunil Chhetri looked enough for Bengaluru to pick three points before Robin scored against his former side at the death to help his side pick an important point.

Laldanmawia Ralte and Sahil Panwar were handed a start by Phil Brown as he made a couple of changes to their last defeat to Chennaiyin FC. Meanwhile, Cuadrat named an unchanged starting eleven from their 1-0 win over Kerala Blasters.

In less than two minutes, the visitors took the

lead through Sunil Chhetri. Kamaljit Singh's poor clearance found Ralte whose pass went straight into the path of Chhetri who made no mistake in slotting it home.

The defending champions saw more of the ball and continued to create openings as Hyderabad struggled to close down their opponents.

There was a penalty shout when Harmanjot Khabra's cross from inside the box was allegedly handled by Gurtej Singh but the referee chose not to pay heed to it. After the half hour mark, they could have doubled the lead from a corner. Dimas Delgado's corner found Albert Serran however, the Spanish centre-back couldn't sort his feet out inside the box. — Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Reds look for a Brighton star

Liverpool: Jurgen Klopp is preparing to embark on a frantic run of fixtures with fears over the fitness of Fabinho after the midfielder limped out of Liverpool's Champions League draw against Napoli. The 26-year-old Brazilian has emerged as one of the unsung heroes of Klopp's team, who have a comfortable eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

Fabinho suffered an ankle injury during Wednesday's 1-1 Champions League draw with Napoli, a result that leaves the reigning champions needing a point from their final group game at Salzburg to guarantee progress. He will be out for more than a month after suffering ankle ligament damage. Klopp had been looking for a victory against the Italians, to ensure that at least one of his fixtures during this chaotic run could be treated as a dead rubber. But the Liverpool manager was left with graver concerns when Fabinho limped off early. Fellow midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum said an injury to Fabinho, signed from Monaco in July 2018, would be a "big blow", with Liverpool involved in four competitions in December. — AFP

Live on TV

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Liverpool vs Brighton
from 8.30 pm on Star Sports
Select 1, HD

Chelsea vs West Ham
from 8.30 pm on Star Sports
Select 2, HD

Paris, Nov. 29: The Gunners slumped to a 2-1 loss in the Europa League against Eintracht Frankfurt on Thursday.

Arsenal are now winless in seven games, the club's worst run since 1992.

Japan midfielder Daichi Kamada scored a second-half double for Eintracht after captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had opened the scoring in first half injury time for Arsenal inside a half-full Emirates Stadium.

Boos from the lowest attendance at the ground since it opened in 2006 greeted Unai Emery and his misfiring team at the

final whistle while some disgruntled fans held up banners demanding 'Emery Out'.

Aubameyang struck home just before the half-time whistle with a low effort for his ninth goal in 14 matches.

KAZAKHS TEACH UNITED KIDS A LESSON

Elsewhere, Kazakh champions Astana fought back to surprise a youthful Manchester United 2-1.

United captain Jesse Lingard opened the scoring, who had already reached the last 32, before Dmitri Shomko equalised for the home side.

Di'Shon Bernard, 19, then put through his own goal to hand Astana victory over a United side whose average age was just 22. United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer made 11 changes from Sunday's draw with Sheffield United by handing senior debuts to teenagers Ethan Laird, Dylan Levitt and Bernard as well as naming cancer survivor Max Taylor on the bench.

Solskjaer said some of the youngsters on show put their hands up to feature against Alkmaar in the final round of group matches on December 12. — AFP

ARSENAL SACK EMERY

London, Nov. 29: Unai Emery was sacked as Arsenal manager on Friday after just 18 months in charge at the Emirates, with the Premier League giants mired in their worst run since 1992.

The Spaniard was fired following the 1-2 defeat to Eintracht Frankfurt in Thursday's Europa League match, which extended their winless run to seven games.

Assistant Freddie Ljungberg has taken over as interim manager with ex-Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri and Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo among the early favourites to be named the boss. "We announce today that the decision has been taken to part company with our head coach Unai Emery and his coaching team," Arsenal said in a statement. — AFP

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