


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 7 NOVEMBER 2019

WEATHER

 **Max:** 32.6°C
Min: 21.8°C
RH: 57%
Rain: 1.9 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Showers likely.
Max/Min temp. 32/21°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Dashami
till 9.54 am
Star: Satabhisham till 9.14 am
Variyam: 4.25 pm to 6.13 pm
Durmuhurtam: 10.06 am to 10.51
am and 2.37 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahukalam: 1 pm to 3 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul-Awwal 9, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.16 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.07 pm
Maghrib: 5.49 pm
Isha: 6.58 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.42 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.42 PM
MOONSET TODAY 9.53 PM

BJP leaders to meet Maha Gov

Mumbai: Prospects of a new government being formed in Maharashtra brightened on Wednesday, with the BJP leaders slated to meet the governor on Thursday and the NCP making it clear that it will prefer to sit in opposition. Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, however, said his party chief Uddhav Thackeray is yet to get any proposal from the BJP leadership.

■ Report on Page 6

HC stops Flipkart bankruptcy case

New Delhi: Flipkart on Wednesday said the Karnataka High Court has stayed insolvency proceedings ordered by the National Company Law Tribunal against the retailer. CloudWalker Streaming Technologies had filed a case against Flipkart under Section 9 of the IBC before the NCLT, Bengaluru, over non-payment of dues worth about ₹26 crore.

■ Report on Page 12

Be transparent on fiscal nos: IMF

Mumbai: India needs to become more “transparent” on the fiscal numbers as it is a “laggard” among the G20 peers on this front, a senior official from the International Monetary Fund said here on Wednesday. The government has been missing its budgeted fiscal targets for the past few years and there is a need for a credible fiscal consolidation, the IMF official said. — PTI

COUNTER POINT



Not air pollution! The high command has asked them to refrain from commenting on Ayodhya!

CLIMATE | CHANGE

■ **Heatwaves could get frequent, say scientists**

June was the hottest ever

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

June and July 2019 have been the hottest months on record, globally. In fact, 2014 to 2019 have been the hottest years ever. Heatwaves are thus among the world’s biggest problems, scientists at a climate change conference here. International agencies like ISA’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have confirmed that June was the hottest June on record, 0.95 Celsius

above normal average. It was followed by the hottest month on record in 140 years — 0.95 Celsius above normal average. Experts at the conference, organised at the Centre of Economic and Social Studies and the Indian Society for Ecological Economics on Wednesday, said this temperature rise was caused entirely by anthropogenic emissions. In a panel discussion on heat waves, Rohit Magotra, deputy director at Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), said

‘heat stress’ is caused by a combination of a rise in temperature and relative humidity. Abnormally high levels can be catastrophic for the human body. Thousands have perished to heat waves across the country in the past few years, he said. “The number of heatwaves has been increasing every year,” he said. “And summers are also arriving earlier hence the season is getting longer.” IRADe has conducted studies across the country. A team has collected data

over four months in New Delhi, Rajkot and Bhubaneswar. “In Delhi there were 49 days with abnormally high temperatures in 2018; this number rose to 66 in 2019. The trends are similar in other places also,” Magotra said. Heatwaves can be the direct cause of wage loss. High temperatures cause exhaustion, dehydration and illness, which force a worker from work.

■ Page 2: Heatwave action plan required: Experts

Tight rope walk for officials



Two days after the shocking murder of Abdullapurmet tahsildar Vijaya Reddy in Hyderabad, Kurnool district’s Pathikonda tahsildar Uma Maheswari barricaded her work space with a rope to prevent people from getting too close to her.

TRS MLA accused of murky land dealings

Congressman bought accused’s land: TRS MLA

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The killing of Abdullapurmet tahsildar, Ms K. Vijaya Reddy, has unwittingly led to the coming out of murky land deals of political leaders, especially those belonging to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, the TRS MLA of Ibrahimpatnam constituency, has been collecting an amount of ₹30 lakh each from farmers of Bacharam village to settle their dispute and mutate their lands in revenue records, alleged Malreddy Ranga Reddy, a former Congress MLA.

According to the farmers of Bacharam, about 412 acres of their village land that comes under survey numbers 90 to 101 have been in dispute between tenant farmers and landholders, and a fight over its ownership rights has been going on since four decades.

The ruling party MLA, Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, also himself acknowledges this version of villagers, and

urged Chief Minister K. Chandra-sekhar Rao to order a probe into land dealings into this stretch of 412 acres. But he counter-alleges that former MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy and his brother Malreddy Ramreddy are involved in murky deals in this scam. He even alleged that the former Congress MLA was behind the killing of Ms. Vijaya Reddy.

He said that the family members of the former MLA have purchased lands from K. Krishnaiah, the father of K. Suresh, the accused in killing of the Tahasildar, and K Durgaiah, elder brother of Krishnaiah.

Manchireddy Kishan Reddy alleged that these land transactions were done by Malreddy Ranga Reddy in the names of Malreddy Divya and Malreddy Kavya. Manchireddy also alleged Malreddy’s family members registered lands from 11 farmers though they don’t have pattadar passbooks.

■ Page 4: Political rivalry, money play big role

ACCUSED IN VIJAYA REDDY CASE CRITICAL

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The police probing the murder case of tahsildar Ch. Vijaya Reddy are verifying call data records of accused Kura Suresh to check if he was provoked to commit the offence besides also verifying his activities prior to the crime. Meanwhile, the health condition of accused Suresh continues to be critical. He is undergoing treatment at the Osmania General Hospital.

On November 4, Suresh walked into the office of Vijaya Reddy, tahsildar, and had set her ablaze by pouring kerosene on her. While committing the act, he also suffered severe burns and was admitted to the OGH by the police for treatment.

■ Page 4: Family suspects someone’s hand

KCR’S SHOCK TO RTC: PAY ₹452CR TRANSPORT TAX

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

As the deadline for RTC employees to rejoin their duties ended, with not many takers for the offer, and the trade union leaders adamant on continuing with their strike, threatening to intensify it, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led Telangana government, sighting no thaw to the standoff, have decided to go on further offensive.

The government has decided to give another brutal shock to the financially ailing TSRTC, with the Telangana Transport Authority (TTA) slapping a demand notice for payment of tax dues to the RTC.

Mamata Prasad, secretary, TTA, has served a notice on the RTC to pay up ₹452.86 crore dues under the head of transport tax, and even asked the RTC to “pay and clear the dues immediately.”

According to sources in the Telangana government, said that apart from the TTA’s notice, the RTC also received another jolt from the Telangana High Court with regard to using of funds of the TSRTC Credit Cooperative Society (CCS) by the management of the RTC.

Mahants, mullahs hold key to peace

They advise followers not to react to verdict

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
AYODHYA, NOV. 6

Mahant Ramdas, a respected religious figure in the temple town, is seated late evening with a roomful of followers at his ashram in Hanuman Garhi chowk, a communally-sensitive area.

“Maharaj-ji”, in his late 50s, commands rapt attention as he explains each minute detail of the clashes that broke out in 2012. The district administration had then asked him to mediate between Hindus and Muslims — after the damage was done. “Only I know how I prevailed upon them not to escalate matters,” he says, giving details that can’t be printed.

Not far from here, Maulana Aamir Rashadi Madni, a popular leader, insists that Islam does not allow the construction of a masjid over a demolished temple. Like Mahant Ramdas, “Madni saab” has tales to tell: of how the Babri Masjid demolition is an emotional issue for every Indian Muslim and how they will lose faith in the Supreme Court if the judgment is not in their favour. With 700-odd temples and

AYODHYA GROUND ZERO

There should be no celebrations or expression of remorse or sloganeering that hurt the sentiments of other communities.”

— **Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali**, Sunni cleric

Refrain from making unnecessary statements on the issue and maintain harmony.”

— **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister

but on the other, they are unwittingly or otherwise doing the damage.

“Babri Masjid will always be an emotional issue for Muslims of all generations,” says Madni. “On (December 6, 1992) the trust of Muslims was broken.” His supporters across the state agree that the apex court verdict will be respected, but if it goes against the Muslims they will lose faith. “The entire community is waiting to see how honest and unbiased the Supreme Court will be,” he says, adding that if the court relies on evidence alone, the verdict will favour the Muslims.

Despite the tales of December 6, 1992, and other communal clashes circulating, the sense one gets is that a section of religious leaders appear to be emboldened by the ruling dispensation.

During the 2012 clashes, all top Hindu religious leaders were in touch with the BJP, while the Muslim leaders were in touch with either the Congress or the Samajwadi Party and even the Bahujan Samaj Party.

■ Page 7: Muslims too think temple will be built: Priest



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Fresh guard

Pramod Prabhakar Kulkarni took over as regional executive director (south) of NTPC Ltd; will hold additional charge of NTPC Ramagundam and Telangana project



HC judge or CBI must probe disputes allegedly involving TRS leaders

— Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka CLP leader

SHORT TAKES

LECTURERS CAN ATTEND SEMINAR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The Commissioner of Intermediate Education has accorded permission to Urdu-speaking principals and junior lecturers working in Government/Aided Junior Colleges in the State to participate in a National Seminar on November 11. The Commissioner Mr Syed Omer Jaleel issued the order following a request by Mr Arifuddin Ahmed, President of Save Urdu Organization. He instructed the principals to treat the absence of participants on November 11 as 'On Duty' subject to production of the attendance certificates by the participants.

HEATWAVE ACTION PLAN REQUIRED

From Page 1

Mr Magotra said 90 per cent of men surveyed in Delhi reported their productivity was affected due to heat wave conditions; in Bhubaneshwar, it was 76 per cent; in Rajkot, 77 per cent. The most loss was in informal occupations such as casual labour who work in the open. The wage loss potential is in hundreds of crores. Lipika Nanda of the Public Health Foundation of India introduced the concept of heat threshold. "A heat threshold for a location is the highest temperature beyond which people start dying due to heat," she said. "We study the pattern between temperatures and mortality in an area to calculate this number." Nanda said the threshold can be lower than people may believe. "In Bhubaneshwar, the threshold is only 38.4 degrees, not even 40," she said. A person's underlying illness such as kidney or heart ailment aggravate during heat waves. "There are a number of effects. Some studies suggest that children develop problems as a result of their inability to play outdoors," she said.

TS GOVT NOD TO CHRISTIAN GRAVEYARDS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

A long-pending promise made by the Telangana State Government of constructing a graveyard for Christians will soon be a reality. This was announced by the Minister for Minority Welfare during a meeting with all Christian denominations in Telangana state here on Wednesday. He said that 68.32 acres of land had been identified in 13 different places of the State for Christian burial grounds. Land for cemetery was essential as all the existing graveyards had been exhausted. Most of the cemeteries are more than 250-years-old and were donated by the than rulers.

FRAUDSTER ARRESTED

Hyderabad: A vegetable seller, who withdrew money from the bank accounts of four persons using their debit cards, was arrested by the Saroonnagar police on Wednesday. K Ashok, 44, a resident of Chaitanyapuri was a vegetable vendor. To meet expenses for his vices, Ashok wanted to earn easy money. He used to visit ATM centres and wait for aged persons. By diverting their attention, Ashok exchanged his debit card with that of the customer and withdrew money.

Delhi effect triggers haze

Fumes from national capital have travelled towards Hyderabad: Skymet

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The city on Wednesday morning woke up to a hazy skyline. This, experts say is courtesy of the rising pollution levels, coupled with the lack of strong winds and sunlight. As it turns out the visibility in the city was brought down to five kilometres, whereas the city usually has a visibility range of 10 kilometres. Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Dr K.J. Ramesh, former director general of the Indian meteorological department, said: "There are several contributors to the lack of visibility in Hyderabad. The haze is generally pollution that comes from within urban agglomerations. Since the pollutants are heavy, it is difficult for them to dissipate." He also said that this phenomenon is common for this time of the year, when the climate cools down. However, environmentalists suggest that the rise in the pollution levels is due to the lack of proper public transportation in the city. "Ever since the RTC strike began, people of the city have brought out their own cars and vehicles to



Hyderabadis woke up to a hazy skyline in Nallagandla on Wednesday morning.

— DC

travel. The bus network transports close to 30 lakh people, and when this transport system went off the roads, residents of the city were left with no option," said C Ramchandraiah, of CESS. In contrast to these opinions, meteorologists from

Skymet suggested that the hazy environment in the city is primarily due to the pollution in the national capital. "The fumes that were emanating from Delhi, have travelled towards the southern region, on the northwesterly winds. This pollution

has now settled over Hyderabad," said Mahesh M. Palawat, chief meteorologist, Skymet (a private weather-forecasting agency). Now, officials of IMD say that it is only sunshine and strong wind flow which can dissuade the

haze from settling in the city. "Only if there are strong winds will the pollution levels in the city come down by weaning the pollutants away from it. Until that time, this kind of hazy atmosphere was most likely to continue," said Ramesh.

Parking fee forced upon despite orders

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The zonal commissioners in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have been turning a blind eye to the instructions given by the principal secretary, municipal administration and urban development, Arvind Kumar. Kumar had instructed corporation officials to personally monitor the implementation of the government order on no parking. However, the GO is blatantly violated in malls, hospitals and other areas in the city.

Even the corporation's top notch has been falling prey to the parking mafia. GO no. 63, dated 20 March, 2018, states that no parking fee is to be collected from any person for the first 30 minutes. The order also states that no parking fee would be collected from a person above 30 minutes and up to one hour if the person produces a bill of any amount in proof of having done shopping in the respective shopping mall or multiplex. For over one hour of parking, a person can produce a bill/movie ticket of an amount which is more than the parking fee and be exempted of the fee. In June, Kumar asked the zonal commissioners to curtail the parking mafia and instructed them to take serious note of violations. Surprisingly, not only the layperson but also top notch from the civic body itself were not spared by the blatant violations of the GO. A senior GHMC official, on condition of anonymity, said that he was forced to pay a parking fee of ₹30 in MJM complex Julu Khana. "Despite purchasing goods worth ₹3,000, I was forced to pay parking fee despite being a GHMC



Paid parking ticket issued at MJM complex. (Below), parking fee collected in the guise of vehicle maintenance

employee. Rather than getting into a confrontation with the parking officials, I just paid the fee and nobody was exempted from paying," he said.

Government hospitals, including the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Gandhi, Osmania and others are epicentres of the parking mafia loot.

At a few locations, the violators changed the name of paid parking to 'vehicle maintenance charges' and the corporation staff remained mute spectators.

Reacting to this, GHMC commissioner, D.S. Lokesh Kumar, said he would look into the issue, adding, corporation cannot enforce everything and currently it has a number of priorities.

The blatant violation of the free parking GO was due to the lack of clarity. GO No. 68 did not mention the parking fee to be charged in hospitals, single screen theatres and others. The GO did not cap the parking fee amount too.

Pollution causing allergies

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

A twenty per cent increase in allergies in children has been noted by paediatricians in the twin cities due to increasing air pollution, rapid urbanisation and lifestyle changes, stated experts.

Allergies being noted in children are those of skin, food and asthma. These allergies are due to the exposure of high levels of dust, particulate matter, smoke and also dust mites, both indoor and outdoor.

Dr Suman Kumar, paediatrician and neonatologist at Ankura Hospitals, explained, "The exposure

of children to pollutants has increased. They are travelling long distances in school buses and also the schools are on main

roads. At the same time, they are in an air-conditioned set up most of the time and this leads to their immunity not being exposed to micro-organisms. When they are not exposed, the body does not know how to fight it. For this reason, we find that children are suffering from allergies."

The increased incidence is due to large-scale protection where exposure to natural environment for children is minimised

fight back is low. Experts state that the problem of pollution merely aggravates in winter but is there throughout the year. Dr Ramana Prasad, senior pulmonologist at KIMS Hospital explained, "In winter, due to low temperatures and due to the flaring of respiratory disorders, it is being noted. But the fight against pollution has to be round the year. The number of children being affected is high because of multiple factors where lifestyle changes and environmental challenges are making them more susceptible to diseases."

The increased incidence is due to large-scale protection where exposure to natural environment for children is minimised. This is not allowing the immune system to act and its suppression is leading to a compromise due to which the infections are lethal and their ability to

fight back is low. Experts state that the problem of pollution merely aggravates in winter but is there throughout the year.

Dr Ramana Prasad, senior pulmonologist at KIMS Hospital explained, "In winter, due to low temperatures and due to the flaring of respiratory disorders, it is being noted. But the fight against pollution has to be round the year. The number of children being affected is high because of multiple factors where lifestyle changes and environmental challenges are making them more susceptible to diseases."

A peek into history



Chief Justice of High Court Raghendra Singh Chauhan, examines historical records as Dr Zareena Parveen, director, state archives, explains to him. The Chief Justice visited Telangana State Archives on Wednesday. Commissioner of police Anjani Kumar was also present.

TACKLING HEAT

Hyderabadis to get cool paints that can lower temperature of their houses

TS govt to provide cool roof for denizens

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

To counter the increasing number of heat waves, the state government has started the Telangana Coof Roof programme. The project has been developed along with researchers from the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) and involves covering rooftops of buildings with materials such as plastic sheets, ceramic tiles or lime plaster to reduce the

ambient temperature inside.

Rajikiran Bilolikar, an associate professor at ASCI, who is closely involved in the implementation of the programme, said, "We hope to offer suitable solutions to different sections of the population. For homes in urban slums or underdeveloped areas, a white plastic sheet would be the best option as it reflects sunlight in summer and prevents water seepage in the rainy season. In the



winter, this could serve as insulation when laid on the floor." Mr Bilolikar said with

these measures, ambient temperatures have dropped by 5-8 degrees Celsius in some cases,

thereby creating a comfortable environment within homes. The cheapest option, a coating of lime plaster, can cost as little as Rs 20-40 per sq ft. The most expensive option, specially-designed ceramic tiles, can cost nearly Rs 100 per sq ft. "These tiles are a semi-permanent option. We suggest them for high and middle income groups," said Mr Bilolikar.

Implemented as a pilot project in some places in Hyderabad, the state government plans to expand the programme by next summer.

■ IMPLEMENTED as a pilot project in some places in Hyderabad, the state government plans to expand the programme by next summer. "We hope to advertise and publicise the programme in slums and other areas in 2020," said Mr Bilolikar.

The programme hopes to cover 1,00,000 sq m of roofs over the next year, 30,00,000 sq m over five years in Hyderabad

■ IMPLEMENTED as a pilot project in some places in Hyderabad, the state government plans to expand the programme by next summer. "We hope to advertise and publicise the programme in slums and other areas in 2020," said Mr Bilolikar.

The programme hopes to cover 1,00,000 sq m of roofs over the next year, 30,00,000 sq m over five years in Hyderabad. It will be implemented across Telangana after the first year. It will try to cover 83,00,000 sq m of roofs across the state in five years.

JNTU: Student's suicide bid foiled

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Final year metallurgy engineering student Sandeep Kumar doused himself with petrol in the chamber of JNTU principal Sai Baba Reddy on Wednesday. There were 30 students in the chamber when Kumar poured petrol on himself. Other students caught hold of him before he could ignite himself.

Sandeep Kumar and 30 other students of different departments in JNTU have been detained because their attendance was less than 65 per cent.

The attendance list is prepared before the semester exams. This is the usual practice and students who have less than the stipulated attendance are detained. Sandeep did not have the required attendance. He met senior professors and head of the department of metallurgy and principal Sai Baba Reddy demanding that his attendance be verified.

In the verification process, Sandeep's attendance crossed the 65 per cent mark. But the principal Mr Reddy sensed mischief and alerted the Kukatapally police station about a meeting with the students. The students came for

■ THERE were 30 students in the chamber when Kumar, a final year metallurgy student poured petrol on himself inside the principal's chamber.

the meeting and Sandeep insisted that he has been wronged. Mr Bala Reddy said, "I am merely following the rules. The disparity in the attendance is a cause of concern. Sandeep was not the only one to be detained, there were others too."

Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarathi Parishad, the student wing of the BJP, has backed Sandeep and claim he is being wrongly targeted.

J Dileep of the ABVP says, "He is a meritorious student. He protected a first year student from being ragged by a final year student. There are other student groups who are targeting him."

The administration of JNTU states that the students are purposely diverting attention to ragging as there is none.

"A case has been registered against a group of students for obstructing the officials from doing their duties and also for attempting suicide. Further investigation is underway," said KPHB inspector K Laxminarayana.

RESIDENTS SEEK REGULAR WATER SUPPLY

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Residents of Goods Shed Nampally claimed that they had been facing shortage of drinking water for the past twenty days. Moreover, there is no fixed time for water supply.

They get water only two or three days in a week, while Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) supplies water every alternate day in other areas.

Residents said that despite having made repeated complaints to HMWS&SB, their problems are yet to be addressed.

Earlier, water would be released around midnight and now-a-days they are not sure at what time it will come creating problems for families. Adding to the discomfort is that the pressure is low.

Meanwhile, Board officials admitted that there is a problem as Asif Nagar Filter Bed is not getting sufficient water from the reservoirs.

■ RESIDENTS said that despite having made repeated complaints to HMWS&SB, their problems persist

NAGAR KIRTANS FOR GURU NANAK BIRTH ANNIV

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The Sikh Community of the city would be celebrating the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru and founder of Sikh religion, on a grand scale from November 7. Close to 50,000 people are expected to be in attendance. Celebrations include two colourful Nagar Kirtans will be taken out one by Gurudwara Sahib Secunderabad at 4 pm on November 7 and another from Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Afzalgunj on November 9. Similarly, on November 12, a Vishaal Deewan would be held at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally.

The processions would be marked by the rendering of Shabad Kirtans (holy hymns) by the Jatha Tera Jatha, Istiri Satsang and Kirtani Jathas comprising men and women. A major attraction of the procession will be the display of Gatka, the famous Sikh martial art form.



Forest head

TRS leader Vanteru Pratap Reddy assumed charge as chairman of Telangana State Forest Development Corporation

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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All successful NRIs from Telangana must invest in the state in the future

— B Vinod Kumar
State Planning Commission vice chairman

SHORT TAKES

‘REJUVENATION’ OF GODAVARI, KRISHNA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The stakeholders’ consultation meeting for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for rejuvenation of Godavari and Krishna Rivers through Forestry Interventions for Telangana State was conducted on Wednesday.

The project development phase (DPR preparation) will last one year (2019-20), followed by a five-year implementation phase. Rejuvenation of rivers will look into both improving the quantity and quality of river discharge adopting a multi-disciplinary approach.

In his welcome address, Lokesh Jaiswal, Addl PCCF (CAMP) and State Nodal Officer for Telangana, said that nearly 70 per cent of rivers are affected by drastic fall in discharge and water quality parameters. The initiative of MoEF&CC and ICFRE to rejuvenate nine major river systems of India is a timely initiative.

Speaking about the genesis on the DPR for rejuvenation of rivers, Madan Prasad, Director, IWST, Bangalore stressed on the need for different interventions for different landscapes.

He further spoke on the challenges of deforestation, extensive agriculture, urban sewerage and their effect on river health.

In her visionary statement, R. Sobha, PCCF and HoFF, Telangana State Forest Department, explained that the State needed “Ananth Van” (unending forests), Aviral Dhara (perpetual flow) and Nirmal Dhara (clean water), which are the three ideals that DPR for Godavari and Krishna rejuvenation should strive to achieve. She called upon all the stakeholders to use this opportunity to provide inputs for DPR preparation.

80-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DONE TO DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

An 80-year-old woman was beaten to death in her house in Borabanda in Sanathnagar on Tuesday night. She was repeatedly hit with a wooden pestle on the head. Her gold earrings, silver anklets and other valuables are missing, said the police.

The woman identified as Sundaramma, 80, lived in a small house in Balaji Nagar Colony in Borabanda. Her husband had died many years ago, and she received a pension of ₹15,000. Her three sons and a daughter lived separately. On Tuesday night, the neighbours noticed that the main door of Sundaramma’s house was open. When they peeped inside they found her woman lying in a pool of blood and alerted the Sanathnagar police.

Based on the complaint lodged by the elder son, Ravi Kumar, a case of murder was registered by the police. After the autopsy at Gandhi Hospital mortuary, the body was handed over to her kin.

A preliminary investigation revealed that Sundaramma was renting out rooms and the police suspect that somebody took advantage of an old woman living on her own and robbed and killed her.

Balanagar ACP K Purushotham said that the woman was so badly beaten with the wooden pestle that it broke into pieces.

“It is found that Sundaramma was allowing unidentified persons in her house by charging some money. The residential area is not under electronic surveillance, but efforts are on to analyse the footage from cameras installed in the vicinity,” said the ACP.

GHMC to impose new burden on Hyderabadis

Entertainment, professional and vehicle taxes may be revised

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Chairman of the Telangana State Finance Commission (TSFC), Rajesham Goud, on Wednesday recommended to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to levy additional tax on all eateries, commercial establishments, sale of petrol, sale of motor vehicle and several other commercial transaction points in a bid to augment revenues of the civic body.

The rationalisation for the imposition of a new tax, reportedly on the instruction of Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao, is to meet expenditure of ongoing civic projects. The new tax is likely to impact nearly 75 to 80 lakh people in Hyderabad.

Rajesham Goud recom-

■ The state finance commission recommended collecting a nominal amount, calling it the ‘city development fund.’

■ Besides the CDF, it also suggested levying ‘city sanitation charges.’

mended to the GHMC to collect a nominal amount but instead of calling it a tax, suggested a fancy name – ‘city development fund (CDF)’. Besides the CDF, Mr Goud also suggested to the civic corporation to levy taxes by calling them ‘city sanitation charges’ after studying similar models across other municipal corporations in the country.

He even asked authorities to consider revision of entertainment tax, professional tax and motor vehicle tax, besides bringing back the largely defunct octroi.

Sources said that his recommendations will directly take a toll on about 80

lakh residents living in the city. The GHMC has already been collecting about ₹200 crore from residential properties, ₹1,200 crore from non-residential properties and ₹56 crore through trade licenses.

When asked when the recommendations would be implemented, Bonthu Rammohan, city mayor, told *Deccan Chronicle* that the corporation will conduct an ‘extensive study’ prior to its implementation. He said that these were only recommendations and would have to first ascertain whether they could be implemented or not.

Directly contradicting the mayor, a senior GHMC

official on condition of anonymity said that citing financial situation of the GHMC, the TSFC reconsiderations were being seriously taken into consideration. He revealed that the corporation authorities would soon meet the Chief Minister prior to levying these additional taxes and cesses.

The official hinted that the TRS government led by Mr Rao was in a dilemma whether to implement the new taxes before or after the civic body elections. It is now a matter of time, of when, rather than if these would be implemented, he said.

Rather than releasing funds to GHMC from state budget, the government was asking the corporation to levy additional charges on citizens, which would result in a public outrage.

LOW RESPONSE FOR HAJ IN TS THIS YEAR

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

For the first time in Telangana, the number of applications received by the Telangana State Haj Committee for the Haj pilgrimage may not cross 10,000.

The last date for submitting online applications for 2020 is now November 10 and as of November 6, only 4,600 people had applied, much below the number of pilgrims who performed the Haj last year from Telangana.

Only 170 applications have been received under reserved category (for above 70 years).

Saudi Arabia had increased the quota for India from 1.75 lakh to 2 lakh in the year 2019. Telangana was allotted quota of 4,169 pilgrims, but total 5,284 pilgrims had performed the Haj as the Haj Committee of India had enhanced the number in the central pool.

From Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy, 2,593 pilgrims had performed the Haj in 2019. The Haj Committee allots the quota based on the Muslim population. It allocates one seat for every 10,000 Muslims.

Last year, 13,368 applications were received from all over the state. The number was 18,083 in 2014, 16,963 in 2015, 17,390 in 2016, 20,601 in 2017 and 17,130 applications were received in 2018.

Chairman of the Haj Committee, Mohammed Masihullah Khan said for the first time in the history of Telangana, pilgrims are showing less interest in applying, but he hopes the number will increase in the coming days.

When cops handle traffic signals



Heavy traffic was witnessed at Sangeet Junction on Wednesday. Traffic police were seen operating the signaling system manually most of the time. — GANDHI

GHMC takes up case of tree chopping, to fine culprits

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, 6 NOV.

The story published in *Deccan Chronicle* on the cutting of trees on the morning of November 3 by a car showroom which chopped the trees on the pavement for a better public view of their showroom, led zonal commissioner, GHMC, Musharraf Faruqui, IAS, himself, along with his officers, to inspect the site at Valley

View Layout on Road number 12, Banjara Hills.

The commissioner transferred this case to the forest department, which also reached the spot on the call of the GHMC, as this case falls under the Forest Protection Act and Environmental Protection Act.

The cutting of trees or branches without the permission of the concerned authorities is a grievous offence as per the Forest

Protection Act and Environmental Protection Act. According to these acts, the cutting of branches or trees, uprooting of trees are all punishable offences. They are fined heavily and forest officials have the authority to arrest the law-breakers by themselves and send them to prison.

The zonal commissioner assured those present that the culprits in this case will be fined not less than ₹1 lakh.

Road works bids get huge response

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

As many as eight firms participated in the bidding for the annual maintenance of roads in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). However, funds to execute the project are still a major concern. Authorities claimed that the civic body has been entirely dependent on State funds.

Surprisingly, the state government put the ball in the corporation court urging it to raise funds on its own accord to meet the costs for the repair works.

The government has asked the projects wing chief, who was made in charge of Hyderabad Road Development Corporation (HRDCL), which was created as a

special purpose vehicle (SPV), to fund the road repair works in the greater Hyderabad limits.

A senior GHMC official said that the corporation has been doing the documentation work for taking loans from financial institutions.

The official said that 687 km out of 709 km worth maintenance will be handed over to private agencies while the remaining park will be executed by HRDCL. The latter will develop model corridors and lay roads in the outskirts of the city. The civic body alone requires ₹1,300 crore and HRDCL will need ₹200 crore. He said the entire process will take one month after the government approves one of the proposals and releases the relevant GO.

COPS TO SERVE NOTICE ON IPS TRAINEE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 6

Following the directions of the Telangana High Court, Rachakonda police, investigating the case of domestic harassment registered against an IPS probationer, is set to serve him a notice.

The court rejected the anticipatory bail plea of the probationer and directed the police to issue him a 41 A CrPC notice and record his statements.

On October 27, Jawaharnagar police registered a case against Kokkanti Venkata Maheshwara Reddy, a trainee IPS following a complaint from his wife Bridudula Bhavana, that she was harassed and beaten by her husband, who also abused her in the name of her caste.

On an earlier occasion, when she approached the police with the same complaint, police officials counselled the couple and Reddy’s parents also agreed to accept their relationship.

As Reddy is currently undergoing training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy, his parents promised to hold a reception on the completion of his training period.

However, Bhavana again approached the police. Subsequently, a case was registered against him under relevant sections of IPC and SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act at Jawaharnagar police station. The police said the statements of the woman and her family members were recorded. As part of their investigation, the police collected documents pertaining to the marriage. A letter was also addressed to the Director, National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

City not to host this year’s Intl children’s film festival

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Heavy rains and impending municipal elections have been quoted as the reasons for not holding the 21st International Children’s Film Festival in Hyderabad this year. The ICFF is organised on the eve of Children’s Day on November 14.

The Telangana State Film Development Corporation Ltd. issued a letter on October 30 stating their inability to hold the festival.

The film festival is a biennial event and has been held in Hyderabad since 1995. After the formation of Telangana state, it was held in 2015 and 2017.

Around 2.75 lakh children participated in 2017. Central government officials who have been working on the project in Hyderabad say they have already got 100 film nominations, and that the state government was aware that the festival was to be organised in Hyderabad.

The film division unit in Mumbai, which is also coordinating the festival, stated that the state government cancelled the event at the last minute.

“We have nowhere to go now,” stated the officials.

Achyuta Rao, president of Balala Hakkula Sangham, a child rights NGO, said, “Why is the government giving

Hyderabad a bad name? Why is an event, that is regularly organised here, not being organised? Why are we not cashing in on this opportunity?”

The funding is by the central government, and not the state, and it is wrong that at the last minute they are saying no.”

The organisers are in a dilemma as they do not know to which city they can take the festival.

Ram Mohan Rao, chairman of the Film Development Corporation said, “We got an indication from the central government at the last minute. The delay did not allow us to prepare to hold the festival in the city on time.”

Bajaj Electronics Bumper Prize



Actress Hebah Patel along with Mr Karan Bajaj, CEO Bajaj Electronics, during the Announcement of the ₹30 lakh cash prize at Bajaj Electronics, Forum Mall, KPHB, in Hyderabad on Monday.

HEALTH | AND YOU

Dr Karuna Sagili says counselling must for all family members of TB patients

Lack of awareness leading to latent TB

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

An estimated 40 per cent of the population in India has ‘latent tuberculosis’ and 5 to 10 per cent of them develop active tuberculosis in their lifetime. While it is very difficult to diagnose latent TB, it is important that those in contact with active TB patients are counselled so that they can act fast when their immunity is compromised.

The biggest problem in India is that due to lack of proper awareness, those who live with TB patients believe that they will never get it, which is not the case.

Dr Karuna Sagili is technical adviser and researcher at the Union for TB, the International Union against TB and



Lung Disease. She spoke to *Deccan Chronicle* about the fight against active and latent TB which must be tackled together to reduce the incidence and control the spread of the disease.

What preventive steps must be taken when a

■ The biggest problem in India is that due to lack of proper awareness, those who live with TB patients believe that they will never get it, which is not the case.

■ Doctors say counselling is very important for the family members of TB patients as they must be guided on what are the infectious points. The living conditions in terms of hygiene have to be very clear.

■ Doctors in India are concentrating on treating effectively active TB. There is a gap and it has to be filled by health workers by communicating with the families.

family member is suffering from TB?

Counselling is very important for the family members of TB patients as they must be guided on what are the infectious points. The living conditions in terms of hygiene have to be very clear. The family must ensure

that there is adequate and balanced nourishment.

Family members have to be counselled by the healthcare field workers.

Is counselling being done for Latent TB Infection in India?

The out-patient department of hospitals are hard

pressed for time. Doctors in India are concentrating on treating effectively active TB. There is a gap and it has to be filled by the health workers who must be able to communicate properly to the family. They must be careful as the disease has a lot of stigma attached to it.

Where immunity is low, why is it that some get TB while others do not? There are other factors that could contribute here — factors that affect one’s ability to fight disease. Socio-economic aspects like poverty-related issues come into play.

Perhaps a person does not get enough to eat or is malnourished. Smoking is a big contributor.

Also, indoor air pollution (like using wood and agricultural waste for

cooking, especially in rural areas; second-hand smoking) and poor living conditions where many live in the same room and ventilation is poor (which we see in urban slums).

We must address all these contributing factors as well.

How is this linked to the vision of India’s goal to eliminate TB by 2025? Latent TB infection is a major contributor to the existence of TB in India. Addressing this will help to fast-track other strategies to eliminate TB.

India’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is linked to this. The SDGs are multisectoral and in achieving them, latent TB is also one of the important issues.



Development cess

GHMC must levy a charge on hotels, petrol pumps and other businesses, says TS finance commission chairman G Rajesham Goud

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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City

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Rachakonda police must not tell police not to come to duty wearing Ayyappa Mala

— Raja Singh
BJP MLA

IN BRIEF

HUSBAND STABS WIFE TO DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

A 35-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her husband in front of her two children and other family members at her house in Habeebanagar over disputes on investing the money on a property.

Tahera Begum, 35, was the first wife of Saleem, an employee at a mutton shop in Habeebanagar.

The couple have two daughters, both aged below 15. Saleem has a second wife.

Disputes arose between Tahera and her husband over purchasing a house as Saleem had sold part off the property. On Tuesday night, the couple quarrelled over the issue, during which Saleem picked up a butcher's knife and attacked his wife.

Their daughters and other family members tried to stop him, but he overpowered them and stabbed his wife in the stomach, killing her on the spot.

After the incident, he walked into the police station and surrendered. Goshamahall ACP, M. Narendar Reddy, said, "The murder took place at around 8 am when his family members were present. The woman died on the spot."

A case of murder has been registered and further investigation is on.

SNATCHER IN 2015 CASE CONVICTED

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. |
DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

A 22-year-old man who attempted to snatch a gold chain from a woman's neck was convicted by a court on Wednesday. The convict was directed to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 18 months and pay ₹1,500 as fine.

P. Balakrishna, 22, of Raipur village, Medak district, was arrested by the Medchal police on March 5, 2015, when he attempted to snatch a gold chain from a woman pedestrian.

Balakrishna, who was pursuing graduation at a private college, was an addict and was running short of money to meet his expenses.

The accused planned to snatch the gold chain from a woman but was caught in the attempt and arrested.

Close call for apartment residents



Fire broke out past midnight in the ice cream parlour at Welcome Court apartments near the Tarnaka Metro station due to a short circuit. However, fire-fighters reached the place in time and doused the flames. There were no casualties. Residents panicked when their flats above were filled with thick smoke and it affected visibility. Few even crawled out of their flats to safety.

— GANDHI

Exempt us from land admin duties, say staff

Associations say administration became cumbersome

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV 6

Telangana revenue department employees, who are shell-shocked at the brutal killing of mandal revenue officer K Vijaya Reddy, have decided to demand that the state government exempt them from land administration duties.

Vijaya Reddy was set on fire in her own office by a man with a grudge over a land dispute.

Leaders of the Telangana Deputy Collectors Association, Village Revenue Officers' Welfare Association, Village Revenue Officers' Association and Village Revenue Assistants Associations are of the opinion that the job of

■ The associations argue that they are already burdened by welfare programmes and they are not in a position to spare time for land administration, a crucial aspect of revenue administration.

land administration has become difficult and cumbersome in view of the various lacunae in the age-old legislations including the Tenancy, Land Ceiling and Inam Lands Act.

The associations are already burdened by protocol and welfare programmes and they are not in a position to spare time for land administration which is a crucial aspect of revenue administration.

The Association leaders, V Latchireddy, S Ramulu and G Upender Rao said that having one's name in the revenue records is not conclusive proof for conferring the land title, and revenue records can be revised at any time.

They pointed out that records and maps which should show boundaries and extent of lands in each of the revenue villages of the state are not available and in many villages the boundary stones have disappeared.

They also pointed out that settlement of land disputes are not time bound and many are pending before the revenue courts.

Once every 40 years, the land survey has to

take place in the state, but since 80 years, there has been no such survey in the state.

Maintaining that 66 per cent of cases are pending in civil courts, the revenue associations' leaders said that to resolve land disputes, a comprehensive land survey has to be undertaken across the state and comprehensive revenue code must be introduced after reviewing all the land and revenue Acts which are in force in the state. They also felt that land dispute tribunals have to be set up in the state and the land records have to be revised with the active cooperation of the people having a stake in the land holdings across the state.

FAMILY SUSPECTS SOMEONE'S HAND IN MRO KILLING

From Page 1

Sources said that the police, who had already questioned the family members of the accused, have found that Suresh would have not resorted to crime unless someone provoked him.

The police are verifying call data records of Suresh and his activities immediately before he reached the MRO's office.

The investigating officials revisited the scene of the crime on Wednesday. They questioned the person who sold the fuel to Suresh.

The police are now verifying CCTV footage to find activities of Suresh three days prior to the incident, with a hope to gathering more evidence in the case, sources added.

K. Gurnatham, driver of tahsildar, who suffered burn injuries while trying to save Vijaya Reddy, had succumbed on Tuesday.

POLITICAL RIVALRY, MONEY PLAY BIG ROLE

From Page 1

Alleging that Malreddy had occupied 14 acres in survey no. 4, Manchireddy claimed that the former MLA, who suffered defeat at his hands thrice, was making wild allegations against him for political reasons.

Malreddy Kishan Reddy, however, admitted that around 60 victims of Bacharam lands had approached him, "seeking his support to resolve the land dispute."

He claimed that only then he represented the matter to the joint collector of Ranga Reddy district.

The Congress and other opposition parties, meanwhile, have alleged that Manchireddy, as a ruling party MLA, was behind all land deals in Gourelli and Bacharam villages, and even showed pictures going viral on social media, which showed that Suresh, the accused in Vijaya Reddy's murder, was also a worker of the ruling TRS.

While the politicians continue their blame game, the entire case has caused severe mental agony to farmers who have been fighting for their rights over lands in Bacharam and Gourelli villages under the Abdullapurmet mandal since decades. And they see no end to the plight in sight.

Student self immolates over low attendance

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV.6

A 20-year-old B.Sc third year student from S.G.S Arts College allegedly set himself ablaze in the hostel and died after suffering 90 per cent burns here on Wednesday.

The student has been identified as Venkata Ramana, a native of Anantapuram district.

Venkata Ramana did not attend classes though his roommates forced him to

come to the college.

It is believed that thereafter, he poured petrol on himself and committed suicide by setting himself ablaze.

On hearing the screams, other hostellers rushed to his room. Their efforts to rescue him went in vain.

Police, who learnt about the incident, rushed him to a hospital.

With 90 per cent burns, he succumbed on the way. Police registered a case and are investigating.

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

DOB: 07-07-1958 DOD: 07-11-2015

Late. MAHAREDDYGARI MAHIPAL REDDY
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CORVINE CHEMICALS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.,
DIRECTOR OF PRABHAVA ORGANICS PVT LTD.

"Your memories remain deep in our hearts forever"

Family Members, Management & Staff of
Prabhava Organics Pvt. Ltd
Corvine Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

TENTH DAY CEREMONY

PILLI KAMALA DEVI
DOB: 16.08.1935 DOD: 29.10.2019
"A MAMA we miss you every moment of our lives"
Inserted by: Sons: Manawallan, Jagan Mohan, Raghu Mohan Daughters-in-Law, Daughters, Grand Sons, Grand Daughters and Great Grand Children
8919400286, 9989930411.

SHRADHANJALI

Smt. PRABHA M. MEHTA
W/o Late Mukundlal Mehta
Expired on 4.11.2019
Uthavana on 7.11.2019 at Gujarati High School, Secunderabad. Timing: 4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Inserted by: Narendra Mehta & Entire Mehta Family
Ph: 9849025568, 9393003799

IN FOND MEMORY

"I have the good faith. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." 2 THIMOTHY 47

Late. Rev. JOSEPH SAMUEL BATHULA
DOB: 01.04.1909 DOD: 08.11.1976
Late Mrs. CHANDRALEELA SAMUEL
DOB: 15.05.1919 DOD: 07.11.1995
Inserted by: Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children
Ph: 9908464346

OBITUARY

Shri Dr. DEVAPUTRA MATHANGI
DOB: 24 Nov. 1951 - DOD: 4 Nov. 2019
Memorial Service on Friday, 8 Nov. 2019 @ 5 p.m.
IN LOVE
From: Children & Grand Children
(A/1920/D01196)

SHRADHANJALI

Dr. S. MADHUKAR
10.6.1944 28.10.2019
May his soul rest in peace
Fondly Remembered By:
Dr. Anasuya Anantha
Dr. S. Renuka Murthy (UK)
& Smt. Kalpana Alladi

12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MADISHETTY LALITHA BAI
DOB: 8-6-1939 DOD: 7-11-2007
Inserted by: M. Ramchander Rao (Husband)
Sons: M.R. Srinivas, Advocate Daughter-in-law:
P. Rama Devi, Education Dept. T.S.
Grand Son: Dr. M.S. Girish Chander
Grand Son: M.S. Sai Chander (BMS)
Ph: 9391016985

6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Memory of the righteous is blessed. Prov. 10:7

Mr. M.L. DAVID
DOB: 15-5-1935 DOD: 7-11-2013
Inserted by: -----
Wife, Children & Grand Children
Ph: 27673811, 9963431313, 9032656320

OBITUARY

DOB: 6.9.1935 DOD: 5.11.2019
With profound sorrow we regret to inform that **Shri R. RAVINDER REDDY** has passed away on 5.11.2019.
Cremation at Mahaprasthanam, Whisper Valley, Jubilee Hills, at 3 p.m. on the 7th, Thursday.
In Grief: Mrs. Kokila Reddy
Mrs. Pranita Reddy & Family
Mrs. Amrita Reddy & Family
Ph: 040-40204167, 9908606636, 9989683602
(S/1920/D01195)

Shradhanjali

SRI. MALVE RAJESHWAR RAO
PRAKASH BABU
Proprietor of Sree Pavan Studio-Lab
Shradhanjali on Saturday, 9th Nov 2019
Hawan 10AM to 12PM followed by Lunch
at Residence #48, Sarvasukhi colony,
West Marredpally, Secunderabad, TS.
SREE PAVAN STUDIO - LAB
FAMILY AND RELATIVES
99850 73003
(S/1920/D01199)

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Sri. J. VEERA SWAMY
Retd. Principal
DOB: 19.7.1932 DOD: 7.11.2015
Inserted by: Family Members
(B/1920/D00128)

Cops initially failed to get clues on Cyanide killer

VADREVI SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, NOV. 6

Serial killer, Vellanki Simhadri, alias Siva, 38, has killed 10 people in Krishna, East and West Godavari districts, within a span of 30 seconds to three minutes each, by administering them cyanide as prasadam under the pretence of 'rice-pulling coins.'

He chose his victims without discriminating on the basis of caste, creed, religion or relationship. He murdered them very quietly and, therefore, it is very difficult to investigate the case. The police could not make any sense of it.

However, only after Kati Nagaraju of Satrapadu, in Eluru, died at Siva's hands and it was said that the post-mortem report found 'poison' in the body of Nagaraju that the police investigated the incident and brought it to light.

However, earlier, similar deaths were reported from Eluru and I Town police registered a suspicious case death as Chodavarapu Suryanarayana, alias Suribabu, of Vangaya-



Vellanki Simhadri

gudem, died on the way.

Had the police cracked the case earlier, they might have saved the lives of five more people. It is said that that failure of the police cost five more lives. However, the III Town and Eluru Rural Police succeeded in cracking the Kati Nagaraju death case and brought Siva's offences to light. "We could prevent the 11th murder," said a police officer.

Vallabhaneni Uma Maheswara Rao, of Nuzvidu, believed that the accused would have a 'rice-pulling coin.' (A rice pulling coin, made of copper and iridium, is believed to have magical powers and is sought after by many just to possess it.)

FAMILIES AND RELATIVES OF MURDER VICTIMS SHOCKED

DC CORRESPONDENT
ELURU, NOV. 6

The relatives of Siva, the prasadam killer's victims, are so shell-shocked that, even now, they are unable to digest the facts. All the deceased persons, including a physical education teacher (PET) of an aided school, did not tell the truth about where they were going and what they were going to do or

Siva took Maheswara Rao's ₹4 lakh and silver ornaments, administered him cyanide. He died instantly.

In the case of Pulapa Tavitaiah of Marribandam village, Siva took ₹8 lakh from him at his house and told him that he should perform pujas. As soon as Siva left the house, Tavitaiah died. On the same lines, the accused trapped G. Bhaskara Rao of Vijayawada. He told him to attend a puja at his (Siva's) house, after taking ₹1.70

about the rice-pulling coins issue.

After hearing the facts around the deaths of their family members, the relatives of the deceased say that the deceased died easily but they did not suspect the reasons behind the death at all.

When police approached the family members of the deceased, they suspected the role of police initially.

lakh form him. A clerk, Suribabu, gave ₹5 lakh to him and later he took cyanide as prasadam from the accused. He died on the way. Siva relieved him of his two gold rings.

The surprising thing is that Sri Sri Ramakrishnanda of Purushot-tapatnam ashram was trapped by the accused. Siva approached the swamiji and gave him cyanide as ayurvedic medicine. The swamiji died instantly. Siva could not get any amount from the swamiji.

GULLIBLE MASSES CONTINUE TO BE FOOLED

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 6

Though the police are launching a vast campaign against 'rice-pulling coins' and other attractive superstitious matters, people are not able to leave these practices and blindly believe the rice-pulling coins and others tricks by cheaters.

Educated, rich men and also intellectuals fall prey to this. For four months, three members of a doctor's family committed suicide at Amalapuram in East Godavari as they fell into a debt trap by paying amounts to rice-pulling coins. After learning they had been cheated, they were unable to clear debts and committed suicide. Several such incidents have been reported.

However, people still will not open their eyes and continue to fall in these traps.



Gymnasium for women

SC welfare minister Koppula Eshwar inaugurated a military obstacle course and art gymnasium at SW women's college at Bhongir



CM KCR is playing games with the lives of RTC employees. He will pay a price

— Jagga Reddy
Congress leader

IN BRIEF

Khuntia takes pot shots at Modi, KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

AICC general secretary and Telangana Congress affairs in-charge R.C. Khuntia on Wednesday contended that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Telangana State Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao were behaving like 'bada bhai and chota bhai'.

Speaking to media, he said that while KCR was keen on demolishing Secretariat buildings, Modi was out to destroy Parliament building.

He said that Union Ministers are making irresponsible statements and giving hyped up versions about the economic situation. Khuntia ridiculed Ravi Shankar Prasad for comparing the nation economic position with actor Hrithik Roshan's film collections.

Meanwhile, he said that TPCC will stage dharnas in front of all district collectorates on Friday against the failures of the Union Government.

PIL filed against route privatisation

Petitioner contends that RTC board alone can take decisions pertaining to transport body and its staff

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA |
DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Challenging the Telangana Cabinet decision for privatising the 5,100 permits of the RTC, a PIL has been filed before the Telangana High court seeking a stay on the decision.

Professor P.L. Vishweshwar Rao, convener, Telangana Democratic Forum and vice president of Telangana Janasamithi filed the petition, alleging that the state cabinet has taken the decision in a hurry without following the stipulated law.

Instead of continuing negotiations with RTC trade unions, resolving the problems and getting them to call off the strike and join duty, they are rushing to privatise.

Tracing the history of the Road Transport Corporation from 1950 to the present, where around 50,000 workers are employed to provide transport facilities to commuters in Telangana with around 10,000 buses, the petition-

er states that the cabinet has taken the decision in a whimsical manner.

He submitted that only the RTC board only has the power to make any administrable decisions under Section 45 of the RTC Act, 1950. The section vests the power to make regulations with the corporation, with previous sanction of the state government. However, the Cabinet on November 2 took the decision to privatise 50 per cent of the routes of the corporation, violating the RTC Act and Motor Vehicles Act 1988.

Prof Rao brought to the notice of the court that the Provident Fund contribution of the RTC employees amounting to ₹900 crores and employees co-operative amount of ₹326 crores were being diverted.

The court tagged the PIL with the other PILs related to the RTC strike, when on Wednesday Chikkudu Prabhakar, the counsel representing the petitioner urged the court to hear this petition urgently.

RTC JAC plans million march on November 9

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The RTC Joint Action Committee on Wednesday announced it would hold the Million March on November 9. The JAC also urged the employees of other departments to support their cause.

The JAC leaders met BJP state president Dr K Laxman, Telangana Jana Samiti president Prof K Kodandaram, and MRPS leader Manda Krishna Madiga at the BJP office on Wednesday.

After the meeting, RTC JAC convener Ashvatthama Reddy told the media that the JAC has requested the BJP to support the Million March,

and party president Dr Laxman has extended the party's support.

Mr Reddy said that the RTC JAC is seeking the support of all the trade unions and employees' associations for the Million March. The JAC is also planning to meet the employees' JACs on Thursday.

The striking RTC employees have not responded to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's deadline for going back to work. Mr Reddy said workers should not panic at the provocative statements made by the state government. He also said that the JAC leaders went to Delhi to meet the BJP national working president J.P. Nadda, and

they would also meet the leaders of other political parties to represent the government to its staff.

"The state government could not take policy decisions on the RTC without the approval of the Centre. The JAC is ready to negotiate with the committee appointed by the state government with legal sanctity," said Mr Reddy.

TJS president Prof Kodandaram expressed his support for the Million March. MRPS leader Mandakrishna Madiga said that the state government has been thinking of privatising the RTC, for which the Centre also has to take responsibility.

HC pulls up RTC MD for affidavit

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Responding to the High Court query about the contrary submissions made in different fora about dues of the TSRTC, the in-charge MD Sunil Sharma on Wednesday placed an affidavit before the court stating that despite receiving excess funds from the state, in order to get more funds, they had briefed the transport minister that the government owes money to the corporation.

The division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A Abhishek Reddy, which had directed the RTC to file a fresh affidavit with facts on November 1, pulled up Mr Sharma, when it found that the RTC's affidavit was contrary to the internal presentation made to the transport minister about the funds owed by the government to RTC.

The court had also directed the Chief Secretary and principal secretary, finance department, and the GHMC commissioner to present before it on November 7, as there was confusion over the submissions of affidavits on the funds

owed to RTC. Following the court's directions, Mr Sharma and Lokesh Kumar, GHMC Commissioner, submitted separate affidavits on dues to the RTC from the state and GHMC.

Mr Sharma explained, "The transport minister was briefed about the financial position of the corporation with a purpose to request him to use his good offices to get more grants from the government and other sources for the corporation, as it was running in losses. It was shown that some amounts are yet to be released by the government."

He also submitted that it was only due to the persuasion of the minister that the TSRTC received ₹455.00 crore in the financial year 2019-20 against a budget allocation of ₹550.00 crore for the full year.

Mr Sharma also explained that the RTC has received an amount of ₹3,903.55 crore under different financial head of accounts during the period from 2014 to October 31 this year from the government, though only ₹3,006.15 crore was owed to the RTC for the concessional passes.

Economic emergency



AICC in-charge Telangana Dr R.C. Khuntia and AICC observer for anti-BJP programmes H.K. Patil address a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday. Mr Patil demanded the Central government to declare economic emergency in the country.

₹73-lakh windows for Jagan goes viral

MD. ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 6

Telugu Desam supremo N Chandrababu Naidu termed the sanction of ₹73 lakh to fix windows of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's house as super expensive.

Mr Naidu posted his comment on Twitter on Wednesday, attaching a copy of the government order (GO) sanctioning funds for repairs for Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy's house. The former CM commented, "@ysjagan's government has allotted a whopping ₹73 lakh to fix windows for his house! Now that is one super-expensive view at the expense of state exchequer. This comes at a time when AP is grappling with a fiscal mess caused by mismanagement in last five months. Truly cringe-worthy."

The government issued the GO RT no 259 on August 15 for the supply and installation of aluminium windows, doors and other miscellaneous works in the CM's camp residence and office block at Tadepallli. M.T. Krishna Babu, principal secretary, issued the GO, which Mr Naidu attached to his comments on Twitter.

Nara Lokesh, TD national secretary, also shared the GO and termed the sanction of ₹73 lakh as "unbeliev-

able". He further commented in his tweet, "A mind-boggling ₹73 lakh, I repeat ₹73 lakh, has been allotted for windows for @ysjagan's house. He says he takes home ₹1 as salary. Such hypocrisy."

The TD social media teams put in lot of effort to make the GO go viral, objecting to the allotment of ₹73 lakh for CM's windows.

Mr Lokesh alleged that ₹16 crore were spent on the house of CM Mr Reddy during the past five months. He posted GOs issued for works of Mr Reddy's house at Tadepalli. He lamented that while the YSRC government was quoting a deficit budget as reason to not pay compensation for construction workers but spending huge amounts for repairs for CM's house.

Former minister D Umamaheswara Rao alleged that 90 per cent works of residential quarters of legislators and employees had been completed but the YSRC government was showing absence of funds to not complete remaining 10 per cent works.

Meanwhile, YSRC supporters, refuting the claims of Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy wasting money, commented that due to security reasons, changes were needed. "There was nothing wrong in sanctioning funds," they said.

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Misuse

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday accused Narendra Modi and Amit Shah of using the “trishul” of ED, CBI and IT to attack their opponents.



Going abroad and saying ‘sab changa si’ does not mean everything will be fine

— Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader

SHORT TAKES

Rahul's dig at PM over unemployment

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of unemployment on Wednesday, saying the “Modi minar” was racing upwards at a breathtaking pace and terming it as a monument dedicated to “incompetence”. “With each passing month the Modi Minar races upwards at a breathtaking pace; a monument dedicated to incompetence,” he said on Twitter, using the hashtag “ModiMandiAurMusibat”. Mr Gandhi also attached a bar chart of the unemployment rate in the country, making a comparison between the rates in September (7.16 per cent) and October (8.5 per cent). The Congress leader has been attacking the PM and the BJP-led government on the issue of rising unemployment and slowdown in the economy. —PTI

MP: CBI raids Cong MLA's residence

New Delhi: The CBI carried out a search at the residence of Congress MLA Raghuraj Singh Kansana in Madhya Pradesh's Morena in connection with a bank fraud case in which his nephew is an accused, officials said on Wednesday. Kansana's nephew Kushal Singh has been booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly availing loan from UCO Bank on the basis of forged documents causing a loss of ₹8.08 crore to the public sector lender. — PTI

Finland minister meets Jaishankar

New Delhi: Finland Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto on Wednesday met external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and held talks on strengthening bilateral economic cooperation besides regional and global issues. Haavisto said they exchanged views on a number of areas and also discussed situation in war-ravaged Afghanistan. “We want to enhance our cooperation with India and also look at ways to enhance economic cooperation. We also discussed regional issues, like the situation in Afghanistan,” he said. —PTI

ANYTHING NEHRU IS CONGRESS' MONOPOLY: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday took a swipe at the Congress, which has criticised the Modi government's decision to drop its leaders as NMML Society members, saying the opposition party believes that “anything Nehru” is its monopoly. The ruling party also asked Karan Singh, one of the Congress leaders removed from Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society, to be gracious, noting that he completed his terms in various positions in different bodies under the Modi dispensation. “Rejig of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library criticised by Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot. Someone needs to ask him the location of library. Anything Nehru they feel it is their monopoly,” BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh tweeted. Gehlot had said it was condemnable that the government has dropped all liberal voices and independent scholars from the reconstituted NMML society. All names, which believed in Nehru's ideology, have been removed, he had said. Singh accused the BJP government of trying to destroy Nehru's legacy. — PTI

Breakthrough in BJP-Sena pact

BJP to meet Governor Koshyari; Uddhav calls MLAs to decide CM issue

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Cong MP meets Gadkari, says no politics discussed

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

A breakthrough in the Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena stalemate over government formation in Maharashtra is expected Thursday. Though the two alliance partners remain adamant on their divergent stand on the issue of who will be the chief minister and for how long, with just two days left for the end of current Vidhan Sabha's term, both the parties are under pressure to take a decision.

On Thursday, BJP leaders are scheduled to meet governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray has called a meeting of his MLAs at his residence.

On Wednesday, in fact, BJP and Shiv Sena ministers met for the first time after the Assembly poll results were announced. Till now they had been communicating to each other mostly through the media.

Although the official agenda for the meeting was “wet drought” in the state, two senior Sena leaders — Eknath Shinde and Ramdas Kadam — held a separate meeting with CM Devendra Fadnavis after the ministers' meeting. According to sources, the Sena, in its meeting at Matoshree, will decide whether to pursue the chief minister's post for

In a major twist to the political power play in Maharashtra, Congress treasurer Ahmed Patel on Wednesday morning called on Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari at his residence in the national capital. The meeting sent the rumor mills running in the political circles into overtime.

The meeting comes a day after the RSS threw its weight behind the Union minister as the troubleshooter to broker peace with a sulking Shiv Sena. Interestingly Mr Patel later tweeted that his meeting was regard-

ing several issues concerning Gujarat. Leaving from the meeting, Mr Patel said he met the Union minister for road transport over “farmer issues”.

“I met him over farmer issues and other issues. It was not a political meeting or on Maharashtra politics,” he said. Later in the day, Mr Patel also put out two letters that he had handed over to Mr Gadkari detailing the concerns over several projects of the government of India.

In the last couple of days the senior Congress leaders from Mahara-shtra have come and briefed the Congress high command over the situation.

two-and-a-half years or settle for the deputy CM's post in the BJP-led government. BJP leaders have repeatedly said that the chief minister's post is non-negotiable. Senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar said that the Mahayuti (alliance) will form the government under the leadership of Mr Fadnavis.

“I will meet the governor tomorrow along with the state party chief, Chandrakant Patil. Our

formula has been decided. Whatever disillusionment was there will be weeded out. The people of Maharashtra have given their mandate in the favour of Mahayuti,” he said. The Sena remains adamant on equal sharing of power and the chief minister's post. Senior Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that BJP must accept Sena's demand for the chief minister's post for the first 2.5 years if the Sena-BJP government is to be formed.



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, along with party leaders Jayant Patil and Sunil Tatkare, addresses a press conference in Mumbai on Wednesday.

— PTI

JD-U keeps close watch on Maha

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Janata Dal (United) is keenly observing the Maharashtra political drama between the Shiv Sena and BJP in order to measure its own prospects for inclusion in the Union Cabinet.

With speculation rife that the BJP has decided to give two more Cabinet berths at the Centre—one Union ministry and one minister of state—to the Sena as part of the bargain for government formation in Maharashtra, a senior JD(U) leader hinted that the JD(U), too, would not settle for anything less.

The Sena already has one minister at the Centre namely Arvind Sawant, who has the heavy industries and public enterprises portfolio.

With two more Cabinet berths, the Sena will have a total three ministries at the Centre. This means that the JD(U) expects three Cabinet berths at the Centre to match the Sena tally.

It might be recalled that the JD(U) had refused to join the Union Cabinet in May this year as only one ministerial berth was offered to them. Terming the BJP's offer of participation in the Union Cabinet as “symbolic representation”, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar had then said that his

party would not be part of the Narendra Modi government. However, in a sudden change of stance last week, the JD(U) upped the ante by pushing for “proportional representation” in the Union Cabinet. The party also said that it would contest the coming Assembly polls in Delhi and Jharkhand on its own wherever it had pockets of strength.

Reminding the BJP that the Bihar CM had given the saffron party proportionate representation in the state government, JD(U) national spokesperson K.C. Mr Tyagi said that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi or BJP president Amit Shah took the initiative for the party's inclusion in the Union Cabinet, they would welcome the move.

Mr Tyagi added that the adequate representation of JD(U) would make Bihar more representative in the Union government and it would be socially more broad-based and cohesive.

Party sources told this newspaper that the JD(U) expects that it will be given an equal share of cabinet berths like the Sena.

“The situation has changed after the Assembly poll results in Maharashtra and Haryana where the BJP has not been able to match

Lawmakers cite poor leadership in the letter

12 Assam MLAs request Sonia to replace LoP

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, NOV. 6



Tarun Gogoi Ripun Bora

In what may further dent the vote bank of the Opposition Congress, infighting within the rank and file of the party has come to light once again with 12 party MLAs writing to All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Sonia Gandhi, seeking a change of the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Debabrata Saikia.

The development comes close on the heels of former chief minister and octogenarian Congress leader Tarun Gogoi expressing his willingness to take over the reins of the state Congress from incumbent Ripun Bora, following the party's debacle in the recent by-polls to four Assembly seats.

It is significant that the Congress not only failed to win any seat in the by-polls but also lost the minority-dominated traditional seat of Jonia to the AIUFD which came into existence in 2005 because of the differences between Mr Gogoi and some Muslim leaders.

Mr Gogoi, however, dismissed rumours that he sought the sacking of Mr Bora as state party president when he met Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi Monday.

“I met the party presi-

dent Monday but I did not discuss any matter regarding the party's organisational affairs. We discussed a lot of national issues,” Mr Gogoi said.

A day later, the group of MLAs, known as the Tarun Gogoi loyalists, wrote to the Congress president, “Madam, we being the main Opposition in the Assembly, should have been able to highlight the failures (of the Assam government) and should have made a scathing attack on the ruling party in every session. But, we have miserably failed because of the poor leadership of our CLP. Our CLP leader Debabrata Saikia is neither vocal nor does he remain alert in the Assembly. He is timid and his voice is hardly heard. Consequently, we have missed many vital issues in the Assembly.”

The MLAs added in their letter, “Madam, we still have two years till the 2021 Assembly elections, and we should be very serious and play a very effective role in the house from now on to corner the government.”



Security personnel stop AICC Assam in-charge Harish Rawat and party workers during a protest march to the RBI building in Guwahati against the Union government over alleged economic slowdown in the country. —PTI

Kin of two MP mantris rough up civic officials

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV 6

In an arrogant display of power, family of two Madhya Pradesh ministers abused senior state government officers posted in their respective areas for daring to defy their dictates, triggering furore in political as well as official circles.

Chief minister Kamal Nath who was currently visiting Dubai to take part in the conclave of Asian Business Leadership Forum, on Wednesday sought a report on the two incidents while taking serious note of them.

On Tuesday, state health minister Tulsi Silawat's nephews Rahul and Rohit thrashed the deputy commissioner of Indore Municipal Corporation Mahendra Singh Chouhan for ordering to remove hoardings and banners featuring the minister in Indore city in MP.

The officer was acting on



Tulsi Silawat

the recent directive by the state government to pull down all banners, posters and hoardings in the cities erected without the permission of the local civic body authorities.

Indore Municipal Corporation mayor Malini Gaur on Wednesday ordered to lodge FIR against the two accused.

In another incident on Tuesday, state animal husbandry minister Lakhman Singh Yadav's nephew Sanjay and the latter's 'follower' Ankit Mudgal hurled abuses at the chief executive officer of local 'janpad panchayat' S Peter

Action taken

■ The officer was acting on the recent directive by the state government to pull down all banners, posters and hoardings in the cities erected without the permission.

over the telephone and also threatened to beat him with shoes for not doing their work. Purported audio in which the kin of the minister was heard abusing him in filthy languages has gone viral.

Later, the babu complained about them in the local police station. The incidents have caused acute embarrassment to the ruling Congress.

“The party has sought a report on the two incidents. Appropriate action would be taken after getting the report,” Congress spokesman here Narendra Singh Saluja said.

30 kg gold seized at TN airport

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 6

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence sleuths on Wednesday seized over 30 kilograms of gold from 130 passengers at Tiruchirappalli International Airport upon their arrival from various destinations, officials said.

Acting on a specific information that a large number of “passenger carriers” were smuggling gold into India through the Tiruchirappalli airport,

the DRI sleuths from Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Tuticorin and Madurai conducted a massive joint operation on the intervening night of November 5 and 6, they said.

As many as 130 passengers, who arrived from places like Dubai, Sharjah, Malaysia and Singapore, were profiled and intercepted, an official release issued said.

“The passengers were found to be carrying over 30 kilograms of gold in various forms including

jewellery, crude bits, paste form mostly on their person and by body concealment,” the release said. Besides the precious metal, the officials seized electronic goods including iPhones, drones and other goods in commercial quantities from the passengers, the release said, adding an investigation is on. Despite repeated attempts, the DRI officials did not reveal the value of the gold seized and also whether the passengers were arrested or detained.

JD-U to set up Bihar booth-level bodies

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 6

With an eye on 2020 Assembly elections the JD(U) has started taking measures to strengthen its organisational structure including the appointment of booth level agents in Bihar.

Janata Dal (United) (JDU) insiders said that the party is planning to set up a committee at the panchayat level to woo voters. Leaders of the party also said that the strategy would be to win over the maximum number of

rural voters who are presently under the hold of either RJD or Congress.

Leaders who attended the meeting called by JD(U) national general secretary RCP Singh on Wednesday to discuss these issues said that the party is planning to launch a massive campaign to popularise welfare schemes launched by Nitish Kumar-led government in order to expand voter's base ahead of Assembly polls.

“Efforts are being made to reach out to maximum voters and inform them

about policies launched by our government. The party has also planned a series of political events in all constituencies to connect with people before the elections”, JD(U)'s state general secretary, Ravindra Singh told this newspaper.

He said that senior party leaders including ministers have been asked to strengthen Panchayat and booth level committees to achieve success in the 2020 assembly elections.

A JD(U) source said that party's poll preparedness will be reviewed by state

president Basisth Narayan Singh and a detailed report will also, be sent to chief minister Nitish Kumar in December.

During the meeting party leaders were also asked to form centers at the panchayat level and nominate booth presidents and secretaries.

Sources said that these booth presidents and secretaries will be responsible to keep an eye on the functioning of the committees in order to enhance JD(U)'s penetration in rural areas.

Joint sitting of Parl Nov. 26 to mark 70 years of Constitution

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

A joint sitting of the both houses of Parliament will be held on November 26 to mark 70 years of the adoption of Indian Constitution and is likely to be addressed both by President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

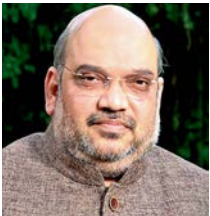
Sources said vice-president Venkaiah Naidu, who is also the Rajya Sabha chairman and Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla will also be present on the event.

Besides the members of both houses of the Parliament, former presidents and prime ministers too are expected to attend the event, which will be held in the Central Hall of the Parliament, sources said.

The joint sitting will start on November 26 forenoon and is likely to last for more than two hours.

The function will be similar to the midnight session of the both houses of Parliament, held in June 2017 to launch the new indirect tax regime GST. A similar function was also held in 1997, when Parliament celebrated 50 years of Independence by holding a special midnight sitting of the two houses.

The Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on November 26, 1949 and became effective from 26 January 1950. An original copy of the Constitution is kept in the Parliament library.



Nanak's heritage

Kartarpur corridor reflects Modi govt's commitment to preserve rich heritage of Guru Nanak, says Union minister Amit Shah

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 7 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD



People have full faith in SC, its verdict in Ayodhya case will be welcomed by all

— Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Spiritual guru

SHORT TAKES

BSP MLA 'abuses' officer in viral video

Damoh, MP: BSP MLA Ram Bai allegedly abused a Madhya Pradesh government officer while accusing him of not releasing the funds sanctioned by her for construction of a road in a village panchayat in Damoh district. The video of the purported incident, which occurred on November 5, has gone viral. In the clip, the MLA can be seen barging into the office of Damoh District Treasury Officer Vivek Gharu and bus-ing him for not releasing the funds. The MLA had sanc-tioned the money for the project from her MLA fund. She purportedly told the of-ficer to seek transfer if he didn't want to work in the district. The MLA also alleged that the officer was demanding money for clearing the bill. According to sources, Ram Bai had sanctioned funds for development. — PTI

Mentally-challenged woman rapes in TN

Ramanathapuram, TN: A mentally-challenged woman from Kerala was on Wednesday allegedly raped in Ervadi near here and seven teenagers arrested in this connection, police said. The 22-year old woman was staying with her father and offering prayers at the Ervadi dargah, which is believed to cure mental ill-ness, police added. In the early hours of Wednesday, the youths gagged her and took her to a nearby bush and raped her, police said. All the seven have been arrested based on a com-plaint, police said adding investigations were on. — PTI

SECURITY BEEFED UP AS SABARI SEASON NEARS

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLLAM, NOV. 6

The vehicles entering the dis-trict limit will be under scan-ner of automatic number detection system soon as part of beefing up security in view of the Sabarimala pilgrimage season ahead. The district administration has taken the decision in a high-level meet-ing convened in the Kollam collectorate. The details of vehicles reaching Nilakkal, Enath, Chandanathoppe, Aryankavu, and Kalanjor will be recorded using the advanced camera system. All departments have been given direction to ensure a smooth pilgrimage season. Special parking lots will be allotted in places where pil-grims gather in masses. The maintenance works of the roads leading to the shrine should be done on war foot-ing along with ensuring suf-ficient sign boards and safety warnings, the administration has directed. The local bodies will ensure garbage is not dumped enroute Sabarimala by the street vendors. Pamphlets containing infor-mation on safety awareness will also be distributed.

Pakistani dates worth ₹1.2cr seized

New Delhi, Nov. 6: In a major catch, customs offi-cials on Wednesday seized Pakistan-origin dry dates worth over ₹1.2 crore here. These dry dates were being illegally imported after wrongly declaring the coun-try of origin of goods as Oman, Dubai and Iran instead of Pakistan, ac-cording to an official statement on Wednesday. Customs officials at the Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Tughlakabad have seized eight such containers which were loaded on a ves-sel at Karachi port, it said. The authorities also arrest-ed the proprietor of an import firm. Importers involved in the

case were following this modus operandi to evade basic customs duty of 200 per cent which was imposed by the government in February this year on goods exported or originated from Pakistan. Importers in connivance with some persons of Pakistan and Dubai and with the help of some shipping lines devised this way of ille-gally importing the goods. Under this, they brought the goods first from Pakistan to Dubai and then on a fresh "bill of lading", the same cargo is transported from Dubai to India in the same container or in a different container, the statement said. In trade parlance such

► These dry dates were being illegally imported after wrongly declaring the country of origin of goods as Oman, Dubai and Iran instead of Pakistan

fresh bill of lading are known as switch bill of lad-ing which are basically used to hide the origin port. With the help of these switch bill of lading and cross stuffing of containers these importers have tried to evade the appropriate duty. Investigation against these importers have been initiat-ed by the ICD Tughlakabad.

One such importer has filed six bills of entry for import of eight containers of dry dates mentioning the coun-try of origin of goods as Iran, the statement said. "Intelligence was gathered that all these eight contain-ers were loaded on a vessel at Karachi port," it said. "This was further confirmed from the shipping line con-cerned and it appeared that the importer has deliberately adopted the modus operandi and wrongly declared the country of origin in viola-tion of the provisions of the Customs Act and attempted to evade the customs duty of approximately ₹3 crore, the statement said. — PTI

Season's first snowfall in Gulmarg



A vehicle moves on a snow-covered road during season's first snowfall at Gulmarg in Baramulla district of North Kashmir on Wednesday.

India asks Pak to refrain from attempts to promote separatists

India lodges protest over Bhindranwale pic in video in Pak

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

Taking serious note of the official video released by Pakistan government on Kartarpur Corridor that carries photos of Khali-stani separatist leaders, including Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, India on Wednesday lodged a strong protest and asked Pakistan to refrain from attempts to promote sepa-ratists and ferment trouble.

India also, while seeking permission for the visit of an advance team to assess the security assessment for both former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Punjab chief minister Capt. Amarinder

Singh who have Z-plus category security, categori-cally told Pakistan that no separatist elements should be seen with Indian dignitaries on the day of the inauguration. Sources said that despite requests, Pakistan has not allowed an advance team from New Delhi to travel to Kartarpur, but officials of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad were on Wednesday given access to the site to make an assessment.

Pakistan has, however, assured that it will take care of India's sensitivi-ties and the security of all pilgrims, sources said. Question are being raised on Pakistan's inten-tions which, while talking

about Kartarpur Corridor as a "goodwill gesture" has released a video that shows Sikh pilgrims visit-ing a gurdwara in Pakistan that has a poster of Bhindranwale, Major General Shabeg Singh and Amrik Singh Khalsa — three Khalistan sepa-ratists killed during Operation Blue Star in June 1984 — in the back-drop. Sources said that India will closely monitor the Kartarpur Corridor, as there is a feeling that Pakistan agenda is to ferment separatism and push anti-India propaganda.

Commenting on the visu-als of Bhindranwale, Punjab chief minister Capt. Amarinder Singh said, "All this is what I

have been warning about since day one, that Pakistan has a hidden agenda here. On one side they show love, but on the other side they may try to create trouble. We have to be very careful." "The video raises doubts over Pakistan's intention which has been promoting Kartarpur Corridor as a goodwill gesture. In the past too we have seen the presence of separatist elements like Gopal Chawla in the Kartarpur Corridor committees. India has shared specific terror threats and dossier with Pakistan. We have to wait and watch how Pakistan keeps its com-mitment," sources said.



Vice-president M. Venkaiah Naidu (extreme right), Punjab governor V.P. Singh Badnore, chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh, Haryana governor Satyadeo Narain Arya and chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar arrive to attend a special session of the Punjab Assembly to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

— PTI

Since 2016, 4 dogs in state have sacri-ficed their lives to save masters' families

One more dog in Odisha lays down life to save kids

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 6

A pet dog at Janla village in Odisha's Khurda district has made supreme sacrifice to protect its master's fam-ily from a venomous snake, reports said on Wednesday.

Laden, a male dog, died from snakebite, but saved its master's two little chil-dren. The incident, accord-ing to villagers, happened on Monday evening. According to reports, two grandchildren of Sunil Krushna Samantray, the owner of loyal dog, were playing under portico of the house and the pet was tied with a chain. The fam-ily members were also sit-ting there in the evening. During the period, a five-ft long cobra entered into the front yard. After seeing the snake, the family shouted with fear and two children started crying. Without making delay, Laden jumped over the snake and wrestled to over-power the reptile. The brave

► Laden, a male dog, died from snakebite, but saved its master's two little children. The incident, according to vil-lagers, happened on Monday evening

dog gnawed the venomous snake following which the latter died. The panicked family members, who were watch-ing the scene, rushed to check the condition of braveheart. However, Laden who was bitten by the venomous snakes sever-al times, closed his eyes minutes after the fight. In a similar incident on June 7 this year, a dog in Badagada area in state cap-ital Bhubaneswar fought against a cobra to guard lives of its owner's fam-ily members in Bhubaneswar. The pet dog guarding their gate spotted the reptile and prevented it from entering

into the house. When fam-ily members woke up hearing their dog barking, they found their pet caught in serious fight with the snake. Despite being repeat-edly beaten by the snake, he threw the reptile outside the gate twice. But when the snake entered into the house again, the pet attacked and mauled it. The dog was immediately rushed him to the veteri-nary dispensary inside the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) and given two in-jections, saline and also admin-istered anti-venom drugs. The pet survived. On March 4 night in 2019, a pet dog had sacrificed its live to save members of his master's family from the attack of venomous snake at Jatni under Khurda dis-trict in Odisha. Tyson, a male Dalmatian breed dog had died after fighting an intense battle with an Indian Cobra to save his owner Arif Aman and his family late on Monday night.

Shia-Sunni rift on Babri

New Delhi: There have been sharp diversions in views of Shias and Sunnis on the issue of claim to the Babri Masjid. While, the Sunni side has consistently believed that it should fight for the existence and reconstruction of the mosque, the Shia leaders from time to time have made statements about surrendering the mosque to Hindus. Most recently, UP Shia Central Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court on August 8, 2017, hearing the Ramjanambhumi/

Babri Masjid case, and had sought to surrender the Babri Masjid to Hindu side for the reason that Mir Baqi, the com-mander of Emperor Babur who built Babri Masjid in 1528, was a Shia and that Babri Masjid was a Shia mosque. Though the Shia Waqf Board had lost this claim in court in 1946. Mr Rizvi's affidavit in court gave a body blow to the Shia-Sunni relations. He has even produced a doc-umentary Ramjanm-bhumi which reportedly supports the Hindu case for the Ram Temple. — Agencies

MUSLIMS TOO THINK TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT, SAYS PRIEST IN AYODHYA

FROM PAGE 1

All tried to keep their voter bases intact in Ayodhya (population: 30 lakh; 30 per cent Muslim). Another temple priest on the Faizabad Ayodhya road, Ram Sharan Das, claims that not only Hindus but even Muslims have concluded

that a temple be con-structed. How did he know what the other side was thinking? "All TV channels say so," he said. For peace, the district administration is rely-ing on two things: (1) Mood of religious lead-ers, and (2) Luck. So it is going all out to woo the leaders.

Russia backs India's efforts to counter terrorism

New Delhi, Nov. 6: Russia on Wednesday reaffirmed its strong sup-port to India in effective-ly dealing with terror-ism, saying it accords pri-ority to New Delhi's secu-rity interests in the region.

Russian defence min-ister general Sergey Shoigu made the remarks during a dele-gation-level meeting with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh in Moscow, according to the defence ministry here. The 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation, co-chaired by Singh and Shoigu, deliberated on all key aspects of defence and security ties between the two countries.

In a significant move, the two ministers direct-ed their respective teams to work closely for early conclusion of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support.

The defence ministry said General Shoigu agreed to Singh's request to constitute specific working groups for after-sales support of key defence platforms being used by Indian armed forces.

"Both sides agreed to intensify efforts to finalise cooperation programme for 2021-2030 period," the ministry said.

Russia has been one of India's key major suppli-ers of arms and ammuni-tion. However, it has been a long-standing grievance of armed forces that sup-ply of critical spares and equipment from Russia takes a long time affect-ing maintenance of mili-tary systems procured from that country. "The Russian side reaf-firmed its strong support to India in the field of counter-terrorism and stated that it accords pri-ority to New Delhi's secu-rity interests in the region," the ministry

Activism that uses a Twitter hashtag to promote a project or cause

An abandoned or unused industrial site in an urban area, particularly one that is or was contaminated

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 7 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

History's lesson for J&K: 'There is no why here'



Gowhar Geelani

"Kyoum bhi kehna jurm hai Kaise bhi kehna jurm hai" (To ask questions is a crime here, to ask why and how is also criminalised)

When the renowned Italian writer and survivor of the Holocaust, Primo Levi passed away, the *Guardian* paid tribute to him with the following words: "The death of Primo Levi robs Italy of one of its finest writers... One of the few survivors of the Holocaust to speak of his experiences with a gentle voice."

Yes, indeed, Levi's gentle voice is heard in *If This Is A Man*. The book is authentic and excruciatingly painful. Levi's attention to detail and analytical sweep are impressive features. Levi, an Italian Jew, recorded the horrors of violence inside the death camps with honesty of purpose

and, most importantly, without anger and bitterness.

At the dreaded Auschwitz he was even denied water to drink. This is how he described the scene: "Driven by thirst, I eyed a fine icicle outside the window within my hand's reach. I opened the window and broke off the icicle but at once a large, heavy guard prowling outside brutally snatched it away from me. 'Warum?' I asked him in my poor German. 'Hier ist kein warum' (there is no why here), he replied, pushing me inside with a shove," Primo Levi records in *If This Is A Man*.

Everyone familiar with Holocaust literature is aware of how the Jews were exterminated, tortured, made to die of hunger, and sent to gas chambers. The lessons to be learned from history is to avoid the repetition of horrific crimes against humanity — because

the fear always is that what has happened before can happen again.

"There is no why here."

In the case of Kashmir, the act of asking very basic questions about fundamental human rights including the right to movement, travel, free speech, information, communication, connectivity, education, trade, etc has been criminalised by the powers that be. For instance, you have no right to ask why over 10 million Kashmiris living in the Kashmir Valley, Pir Panjal, the Chenab Valley, Kargil and elsewhere have been denied the Internet for the last three months since the abrogation of Articles 35A and 370. The argument made by the ruling dispensation in New Delhi is that both articles were scrapped for the "overall good" and "economic development" of the local population in Kashmir. If that is the case, why aren't the Kashmiris allowed to express their opinions through social media platforms using the Internet?

Yes, you cannot ask why over 23 lakh pre-paid mobile phone subscribers in Kashmir cannot use their mobile phones. And you cannot ask why kids, adults and researchers can't go

New Delhi's argument is that Article 370 was scrapped for the 'overall good' and 'economic development' of the population in Kashmir. If that is the case, why aren't Kashmiris allowed to express their opinions through social media?

to schools, colleges and universities. Everyone else has an opinion on Kashmir, but this right is denied to the Kashmiris. Now a purported no fly list has been prepared by the Jammu and Kashmir administration which bars hundreds of lawyers, civil society actors, journalists, traders and influential people from travelling abroad. But in Kashmir you can't ask why!

You cannot ask why three former chief ministers — Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti — and hundreds of political workers and sympathisers of various political formations are rotting in prisons if the scrapping of articles and stripping Kashmir's autonomy and state-

hood is for the "benefit" of the people of Kashmir. Yes, you can't ask why people working in the IT industry, according to moderate estimates, have suffered losses of over ₹5,000 crores in the absence of the Internet since August 5, 2019.

You cannot ask questions on why the local media in Kashmir is gagged. The fear is so palpable that leading English and Urdu dailies published from Srinagar either do not publish editorials and Op-eds or write about the health benefits of apricot, cucumber, carrot, radish and walnut, but do not dare to talk about the prevailing political situation in Kashmir. But you cannot ask why the media is muzzled in Kashmir or why there is an undeclared emergency in Kashmir.

One of the fundamental lessons that we, as journalists and writers, are taught in media houses and universities is to ask questions. The question words Why, What, Where, When, Who and How become essential weapons of a scribe to tell a story or dig an exclusive or a scoop. Sadly, all of these question-words are not allowed in Kashmir. There is an undeclared ban on asking questions. The Hindu nationalist and

ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) claims that "Kashmiris are happy with the scrapping of the region's autonomy and statehood". But the BJP has to ensure that thousands of ordinary Kashmiris, including teenagers and top politicians, are put in prison, the Internet is stopped and communication lines are snapped because Kashmiris are apparently so "happy" with the BJP's decision that their consent is neither required nor valued. Their consent is manufactured by the media houses based in Noida, New Delhi and Mumbai through sustained propaganda. You cannot ask why.

It is ironic that India's civil society has not bothered to even give lip service to the plight of over 10 million dispossessed Kashmiris. In Kashmir, every single Kashmiri sees the scrapping of autonomy and stripping of statehood as a smash and grab operation. No one cares to know their opinion as if there is social sanctity to the idea of caging Kashmiris and shutting them down.

You cannot ask why Kashmiri teenagers are being picked up in nocturnal raids across the nook and crannies of the Kashmir Valley and

allegedly tortured in custody. You cannot ask why there are more barricades and bunkers on the streets of Kashmir than the number of vehicles plying on them. You cannot challenge officials on their falsehood and concocted claims and their propagandist narratives — because the government has ensured that a Kashmiri is denied a voice in the mainstream or the social media thanks to the Internet ban.

I was taken aback when Rahati Begum, an octogenarian lady from uptown Srinagar, told me in the Kashmiri language on October 31, "Sorui maklovukh" (everything has been snatched from us) while tears streamed down her cheeks. The helplessness on her face was heart-wrenching.

Poet Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi's immortal words aptly sum up the suffocating ground situation in Kashmir:

"Kyoum bhi kehna jurm hai Kaise bhi kehna jurm hai Zindagi ke naam par bus itni inayat chahiye Mujh ko inn sare jaraim ki ijazat chahiye"

The writer is a journalist, author and political commentator



Dominic Emmanuel

The Pope's beatitudes: Who are the blessed?

The four holy gospels in the Bible which inform us about the life, works and teachings of Jesus Christ, though in a gist, have influenced billions of people down the centuries. While for millions the entire gospels keep providing a "blueprint" to base their life's objectives and action plan on, there are others who are contented with smaller portions of it too. For many, just one or two Bible verses have brought about a total conversion in their lives. Reading them prayerfully does touch one's inner being: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted; Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth; Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled; Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy; Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God; Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God; Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me".

Some years ago, Pope Francis, while celebrating the feast of All Saints, proposed to the faithful six new beatitudes that he believed could help them lead a holy life in modern times. It would certainly be worth meditating and praying on them. And our prayers can possibly give birth to new beatitudes too.

Father Dominic Emmanuel, a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions, can be contacted at frdominic@gmail.com



Rajeev Ahuja

A b h i j i t Banerjee, the winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics, is reported to have praised the Narendra Modi government for its healthcare program. Ayushman Bharat. He is also reported to have said that though India has one of the highest private healthcare expenditures in the world, people are not getting value for money. Indeed, over 60 per cent of total healthcare spending in India is done directly by households from their own pockets, which is burdensome. The Narendra Modi government together with states and municipalities have quite some distance to cover in ensuring that people get value for money for their healthcare spendings.

It is good to see healthcare becoming a political priority in India. Ayushman Bharat (AB) — one of the successful social initiatives of the Narendra Modi government — is being rolled out by states with the support of the Central government.

However, both the pillars of AB are for the benefit of the weaker sections of society. The PMJAY pillar that entitles free hospital care of up to ₹5 lakhs every year is specifically targeted at the nearly 110 million poor and vulnerable households. The other pillar of health and wellness centres is aimed at providing basic primary and preventive care to all in rural and semi-urban areas, though the poor are likely to benefit more from it.

For the non-poor, especially in towns and cities, nobody seems to be doing anything about the healthcare options avail-

able to them. They too face the risk of getting impoverished due to healthcare expenses. The issue of value for money is most applicable to them.

Nearly 300 million people, or about 65 per cent of India's urban population, live in about 500 cities having a population of 100,000 and above. The majority of this population comprises the non-poor who derive their income by working in the informal sector. They have limited health expenditure support. For hospital care, they have the option of buying one of the unfriendly, expensive annual health insurance plans from an insurance company or pay hospital bills out of their own pocket. For out-patient (OP) care, almost all of them turn to private providers — by visiting either the OP department of private hospitals or private clinics and paying out of their own pocket.

It is a known fact that private providers are a dominant source of OP care both in urban and

rural areas. However, unlike rural semi-urban areas, the OP care in bigger towns and cities is all provided by qualified doctors having private practices. A good part is that there are multiple, qualified providers of care in towns and cities. However, a bad part of it is that the system is highly non-standardised. Some doctors charge significantly higher consultation fees than others. Some doctors charge a consultation fee every time you visit while others allow you a repeat consultation without having to pay again. Some doctors prescribe "minimal" medicine while others heal you with stronger medicines. Some doctors routinely issue payment receipts while others do so only upon request. Some doctors require a prior appointment while others don't. Some doctors maintain patient records while others don't. Indeed, out-patient care even by qualified medical doctors is highly variable in India.

Often, patients face several issues in seeking OP care. Besides having to pay a high fee that can run as high as ₹2,000 in a metro city for specialist consultation which may last no more than two minutes, patients may have to wait for long even with prior appointments. Also, doctors often don't spend sufficient time to

Value for money in healthcare is an important issue for a majority of the non-poor households living in towns and cities. Central and state governments need to do something about it.

answer patients' queries. To be fair, there are some doctors that run their practice with a sense of social responsibility. But many doctors are highly commercial-minded. Stories abound of doctors resorting to different strategies to maximise their revenue/profits. The OP care market in India needs standardisation.

The thriving private practices of doctors in towns and cities are no indication that it's an optimal arrangement. The market mechanism doesn't work well in healthcare. Governments need to intervene in this market for some good reasons: One, healthcare is different from other services as the physical and mental well-being of a person gets affected when s/he is sick, and two, treatment of the sick is not to be governed solely by commercial consid-

erations. Thus, governments have a special role to play in ensuring basic healthcare to all of its citizens at a nominal charge, if not free.

The government could, for example, incentivise private practitioners to get into a network that will enable them to introduce some standardisation of service, fee structure, processes and reporting. Likewise, government could encourage people to buy OP care only from the network providers. Of course, people will be paying for those services as they do now but will be paying only "reasonable" amounts in exchange for services whose "quality" aspect is well-defined.

Healthcare being a state subject, each state government will need to act on this, with or without any support from the Central government. Except for some partial initiatives such as mohala clinics of the Delhi government, states seem to have adopted the policy of laissez faire for OP care, when there is a strong case for them to intervene. Any effective solution for OP care in large towns and cities has to take account of the preponderance of private practitioners and involve them. To conclude, value for money in healthcare is an important issue for a majority of the non-poor households living in towns and cities. Central and state governments need to do something about it. OP care in towns and cities, which at present is totally untouched by governments, is too important to be left completely to market forces. Private practitioners may continue providing care but a government-mediated system is urgently needed to introduce standardisation. Let the hands that heal not become the hands that exploit — for want of a better system!

The writer is a development economist, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank



'Cinderella, you SHALL go to the ball!'

Mrs. Gandhi to meet Nijalingappa: bid to resolve crisis

NEW DELHI, November 6

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

MRS. Indira Gandhi and Mr. S. Nijalingappa are meeting over lunch at the Prime Minister's residence tomorrow to explore the possibilities of ending the four-month-long confrontation between the organisational and the parliamentary wings of the ruling Congress party.

Minister and the Congress President, rounding off a series of talks he has had with senior Congress leaders since arriving here from Bangalore last evening. He said Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Nijalingappa would be free to raise any point during their luncheon meeting.

There were no pre-conditions and the meeting was not taking place on the basis of any set of proposals, Mr. Patil said. Mr. Patil modestly declined to accept reporters' congratulations on succeeding where eight Chief Ministers did not last week. He said: "I can only say I am very happy that the two are meeting, and I appeal to the press to create a proper atmosphere so that they may give good news to the country."

C.G. Rajya Beej Evam Krishi Vikas Nigam Ltd., Telibandha, G.E. Road, Raipur (C.G.) Phone No.-0771-4212203/15/12/24 Website <http://agriportal.cg.nic.in/beejnigam>

NOTICE FOR INVITING RCO/TENDER (SHORT TERM)

S.NO./HO./BKVN/RCO/2019-20/7791 Date 05/11/2019 Online Rate Contract Offer/Tender are invited from Producer/Authorised distributor for supply of following items for the year 2019-20 and onwards as per terms & condition mentioned in R.C.O. document.

S. No.	RC No.	Name of Items	Last date	E.M.D. (online)
1	RCO-02	Tissue Culture Plants, Banana	10.12.2019	100000/-
2	RCO-13	Lab Chemical Glassware and Plastic Ware	10.12.2019	200000/-
3	RCO-25	Oil cake, Neem cake, Rice bran & bone mill	13.12.2019	100000/-
4	RCO-56	Certified Vegetable Seed (Patao, Coriander, Vegetable)	16.12.2019	50000/-
5	RCO-62	Vegetable Seed (Arbi, Ginger, Termeric)	17.12.2019	50000/-
6	RCO-79	Dairy Plant Equipments	10.12.2019	125000/-

RCO/Tender documents and other details can be seen and downloaded from Website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in/> and should be submitted online before the due date as per scheduled time mentioned in tender document. Received offers will be open on scheduled date in the presence of offerors or their representative who wishes to be present. The document Price is Rs. 1500.00 and Earnest Money is to be Deposited online on or before due date as mention in RCO documents.

Note :- For any assistance please contact our service provider- M-Junction Services Limited

Managing Director

S-23387/1

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/P&C	1025	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgpc/app DIPP/4109/TENDER/2019

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tenders in Single Bid System through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following works:

Tender Notice No. : KR-W-09-2019-15. Name of Work : Manufacturing, Supplying and Replacing existing PTFE (Free end) bearings of steel girder spans of Zuari and Mandovi Railway bridges over Konkan Railway in Goa State. **Estimated Cost :** ₹ 48.81 Lakhs (excluding 18% GST). **Completion Period :** Four Months including moonson. **Closing Date/Time :** 29/11/2019 up to 15:00 hrs. for submission of online Offers/Bids.

Tender Notice No. : KR-W-09-2019-13. Name of Work : Construction of Subway (Road Under Bridge) in Pre-Cast RCC box having clear inner dimensions of 4m x 3.8m. Barrel length of 9.18m by Cut & Cover method and 9m length RCC box by Cast-in-Situ method on either side between Cancona-Lolim Station at Km.476/950 under AEN/Kanwar section over Konkan Railway. **Estimated Cost :** ₹ 114.30 Lakhs (Excluding 12% GST). **Completion Period :** Five Months including moonson. **Closing Date/Time :** 29/11/2019 up to 15:00 hrs. for submission of online Offers/Bids.

Please visit <https://ireps.gov.in> website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 07SEE19-20
The DRAM/Engg./SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 03.12.2019 up to 13:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-Tender is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in

Name of work with item no. : Supplying & stacking of 3,00,000 mm of machine crushed track ballast 50 mm size conforming RDSO's specification of track ballast (June-2016 edition with up to date correction slips) at Sakargali and loading the same into any type of Railway Wagon, F.O.R Sakargali, for E.C. Railway. **Approx. Cost (In Rs.) :** 31,14,00,000.00, **Earnest Money (In Rs.) :** 17,07,000/-, **Cost of Tender document (In Rs.) (Non-refundable) :** 10,000/-

The above tender notice is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER. Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reason. **Divisional Railway Manager/Engg./Sonpur PR/1592/SEE/Engg./T/19-20/36**

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-

(01) Name of the work with its location : Design, Drawing, Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV OHE and PSI works between Chakia (Excl.) - Pipra (Incl.) in connection with doubling between Muzaffarpur - Sagauli section. e-Tender No. EL/CN/MHX/ETEN/55/19-20. **Approx. Cost of the work :** Rs. 4,80,47,221/-. **Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited :** Rs. 3,90,200/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively.

(02) Name of the work with its location : Design, Drawing, Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV OHE and PSI works between Motipur (Excl.) - Chakia (Incl.) in connection with doubling between Muzaffarpur - Sagauli section. e-Tender No. EL/CN/MHX/ETEN/56/19-20. **Approx. Cost of the work :** Rs. 9,58,59,887/-. **Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited :** Rs. 6,29,300/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively.

Date and time for closing of tender : 20.11.19 up to 12:00 Hrs. Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/CON/Mahendraghat office. CAO/CON/ECR office Complex, Patna-04.

Dy CEE/Con/North/Samastipur PR/1588/CON/Elec/T/19-20/60

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./I) E.C.Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:-

SI. No. 1, Tender Notice No. TC-218-SPJ-2019, Name of work : Provision of Side Pathway & Changing of corroded/ Loose Rivets in Steel Girder Bridges of Bridge no. 14.7 of section SPJ-KGG & Br. No. 86A, 130, 127, 119, 117, 96, 42, 14, 3 of SHC-PRNA section under SSE(Bridge)/SPJ of Samastipur Division. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 2,02,99,382.32. **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 2,51,500/-. **Cost of Tender document (In ₹) :** 10,000/-. **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months.

SI. No. 2, Tender Notice No. TC-219-SPJ-2019, Name of work : (i) Special repair to pipe line for multiple connection for bye pass arrangement of water supply at Sakri & Jaynagar including connection of water supply of platform no. 2 at Sakri & connection of new tube well to station building & running room at Jaynagar. & (ii) Repair to water supply system under ADEN /IDBG & ADEN/IDBG. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 87,12,337.77. **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 1,74,300/-. **Cost of Tender document (In ₹) :** 5,000/-. **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months.

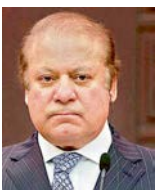
SI. No. 3, Tender Notice No. TC-220-SPJ-2019, Name of work : Replacement of existing damaged hand pump by 50 Nos. India Mark II hand pump in Railway colony at Samastipur. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 39,24,365.06. **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 78,500/-. **Cost of Tender document (In ₹) :** 3,000/-. **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months.

SI. No. 4, Tender Notice No. TC-221-SPJ-2019, Name of work : Repairs to the surface of approach road & wharf with extension of existing bridge at Sarsil. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 1,78,10,820.56. **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 2,32,100/-. **Cost of Tender document (In ₹) :** 5,000/-. **Completion period of the work :** 04 Months.

SI. No. 5, Tender Notice No. TC-222-SPJ-2019, Name of work : Provision of 3.0m wide FOB at IMLI Station. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 1,64,10,119.60. **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 2,32,100/-. **Cost of Tender document (In ₹) :** 5,000/-. **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months.

SI. No. 6, Tender Notice No. TC-223-SPJ-2019, Name of work : Provision of 3.0m wide FOB at Singhiaghat Station. **Tender Value (In ₹) :** 1,64,10,119.60. **Earnest Money (In ₹) :** 2,32,100/-. **Cost of Tender document (In ₹) :** 5,000/-. **Completion period of the work :** 06 Months.

1. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-tender mode on IREPS web portal:- 27/11/2019 upto 15:00 hours. **2. Opening Date & time for E-Tender :** 27/11/2019 after 15:00 hours. **3. Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on Website :** www.ireps.gov.in **4. Amendments/modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website :** www.ireps.gov.in **Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord/Samastipur PR/1587/SPJ/Engg./T/19-20/96**



Deteriorating health

Nawaz Sharif is facing a major genetic issue and has been advised to go abroad for treatment



People want to elect somebody who can actually get things done

— Joe Biden on Elizabeth Warren

IN BRIEF

China, France back Paris climate pact

Beijing: Chinese leader Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron declared on Wednesday that the Paris climate pact was 'irreversible' showing a united front after Washington formally withdrew from the accord this week. Major powers expressed regret and concern after President Donald Trump went ahead with the pullout from the Paris accord despite mounting evidence of the reality and impact of climate change. Washington presented its withdrawal letter to the United Nations, the first possible date under the accord negotiated by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, making the world's largest economy the sole outlier from the agreement.

Republican allies lose in State polls

Washington: US Democrats claimed an upset win in Kentucky over a Republican governor backed by President Donald Trump and seized control of the state legislature in Virginia, where anti-Trump sentiment in the suburbs remained a potent force. The outcomes of elections in four states, including Mississippi and New Jersey, could offer clues to how next year's presidential election could unfold, when Trump will aim for a second four-year term. In Kentucky, Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear, whose father, Steve, was the state's last Democratic governor, declared a narrow victory over Governor Matt Bevin, who has refused to concede. Meanwhile, Trump appeared to accept defeat for the Republican governor, but said the election as a whole was a win.

Tourists stabbed in Jordanian city

Amman: Several tourists were stabbed on Wednesday in Jerash, a Jordanian city popular with foreign visitors, along with a local guide and a security guard, police said, adding that a man had been arrested. A security source said three of the victims were Spanish women who had been taken to hospital. Jerash is famed for its Roman ruins. Videos posted on social media showed a bleeding woman lying on the floor and another panic-stricken woman in a blood-stained T-shirt. A third security source said two of the tourists were in a critical condition.

BORIS JOHNSON COMPARES RIVAL TO DICTATOR STALIN

London, Nov. 6: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson compared his main rival to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin as he prepared to officially launch the governing Conservative Party's campaign for the Dec. 12 election. While unofficial campaigning begun weeks ago, the five-week election campaign formally began when Parliament was dissolved on Wednesday. Johnson went to Buckingham Palace to notify Queen Elizabeth II before kicking off the Conservative campaign with a speech in central England. Election season got off to an ill-tempered start, as Johnson accused the main opposition Labour Party of planning to "raise taxes so wantonly" that it would destroy Britain's prosperity. Johnson accused the left-of centre party of attacking the rich "with a relish and vindictiveness not seen since Stalin persecuted the kulaks," the wealthier peasants who were targeted by the Soviet regime in the 1930s. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, meanwhile, labelled Johnson's economic plans "Thatcherism on steroids."

Chilean police bear the brunt



Police run after being hit with a gasoline bomb thrown by protesters during an anti-government protest in Santiago. Chile has been facing weeks of unrest, triggered by a relatively minor increase in subway fares. The protests have shaken a nation noted for economic stability over the past decades, which has seen steadily declining poverty despite persistent high rates of inequality.

TRUMP REGIME

H-1B denials for Indian IT firms

Washington, Nov. 6: As a result of the more restrictive Trump administration policies, denial rates for H-1B petitions have increased significantly from just six per cent in 2015 to 24 per cent in the third quarter of the current fiscal, a study carried out by a think-tank in the United States has showed.

The study by the National Foundation for American Policy, based on data received from the US citizenship and immigration services or USCIS, also reflects that denial rate for H-1B visas is highest among major Indian IT companies, thus giving credence to charges that Indian companies are being unduly targeted by the current administration.

For instance, the denial rate of H-1B petitions for initial employment for Amazon, Microsoft, Intel and Google in 2015 was just one per cent. In 2019, the same increased respectively to six, eight, seven and three per cent. The denial rate for Apple remained the same at two per cent.

During the same period, the denial rate jumped from four per cent to 41 per cent for Tech Mahindra, from six per cent to 34 per cent for Tata Consultancy Services, from seven per cent to 53 per cent for Wipro and from just two per cent to 45 per cent for Infosys, the study

■ **THE** data collected in the study reflects that the denial rate for H-1B visas is highest among major Indian IT companies.

■ **THIS** lends credence to charges that Indian companies are being unduly targeted by the current administration.

showed. At least 12 companies that provide professional or IT services to other US companies, including Accenture, Capgemini and others, had denial rates of over 30 per cent through the first three quarters of fiscal 2019. Most of these companies had denial rates between two per cent and seven per cent as recently as 2015, it said.

The denial rate for H-1B petitions for continuing employment was also high for Indian IT companies. For Tech Mahindra, it increased from two per cent to 16 per cent during the same period, while that of Wipro increased from four per cent to 19 per cent, and Infosys from one per cent to 29 per cent, the study showed.

On the other hand, the denial rates for H-1B petitions for continuing employment among major US companies were low.

Between 2015 and 2019, the denial rate for new H-1B petitions for initial employment quadrupled from six to 24 per cent, the NFAP said.

— PTI

Stunning reversal by US envoy

Sondland hands House impeachment investigators key testimony

Washington, Nov. 6: "I now do recall." With that stunning reversal, diplomat Gordon Sondland handed House impeachment investigators another key piece of corroborating testimony. He acknowledged what Democrats contend was a clear *quid pro quo*, pushed by President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, with Ukraine.

Sondland, in an addendum to his sworn earlier testimony, said that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine's new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption, as Trump wanted. Sondland knows that proposed arrangement to be a fact, he said, because he was the one who carried the message to a Ukrainian official on the sidelines of a conference in Warsaw with vice president, Mike Pence.

"I said that resumption of US aid would likely not occur until Ukraine pro-

vided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks," Sondland recalled. "It kept getting more insidious," Sondland told investigators, as the "timeline went on."

Sondland testified that he spoke with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about Giuliani, "and Pompeo rolled his eyes and said: 'Yes, it's something we have to deal with.'"

His three-page update, tucked beneath hundreds of pages of sworn testimony from Sondland and former Ukraine Special Envoy Kurt Volker, was released by House investigators as Democrats prepared to push the closed-door sessions to public hearings as soon as next week.

Trump has denied any *quid pro quo*, but Democrats say there is a singular narrative developing since the president's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he first asked for "a favour." That request,



I said that resumption of US aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks

— GORDON SONDLAND US diplomat

David Hale plans to tell congressional impeachment investigators that secretary of state Mike Pompeo and other senior officials determined that defending Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch would hurt the effort to free up US military assistance to

Ukraine. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, said the House panels conducting the inquiry are releasing the word-by-word transcripts of the past weeks' closed-door hearings so the American public can decide for themselves.

"This is about more than just one call," Schiff stated. "We now know that the call was just one piece of a larger operation to redirect our foreign policy to benefit Donald Trump's personal and political interests, not the national interest."

Pushing back, White House press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, issued a statement saying the transcripts "show there is even less evidence for this illegitimate impeachment sham than previously thought."

In his revised testimony, Sondland, says his memory was refreshed by the opening statements of two other inquiry witnesses, William Taylor and Tim Morrisson.

WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF SUMMONED

Washington, Nov. 6: US House impeachment investigators summoned President Donald Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, for a deposition, saying he has "substantial first-hand knowledge" of Trump's efforts to pressure Ukraine.

"The investigation has revealed that you may have been directly involved in an effort orchestrated by Trump, his personal agent, Rudolph Giuliani and others to withhold nearly \$400 million in security assistance to pressure Ukraine to pursue investigations that would benefit Trump's personal political interests," the chairman of the three committees leading the probe wrote.

Mulvaney is the highest-ranking White House official to be summoned in the impeachment probe. — AP



Photo shows the inside of reactor at the Russian-built Bushehr nuclear power plant in Tehran.

— AFP

US accuses Iran of nuke extortion

Washington, Nov. 6: The United States accused Iran of 'nuclear extortion' and vowed no let-up in pressure after the clerical regime said it would resume uranium enrichment at the key Fordow plant.

"Iran has no credible reason to expand its uranium enrichment programme, at the Fordow facility or elsewhere, other than a clear attempt at nuclear extortion that will only deepen its political and economic isolation," a state department spokesperson said, adding, "We will continue to impose maximum pressure on the regime until it abandons its destabilising behaviour."

President Hassan Rouhani said Iran would resume enrichment at the plant near the Shiite holy city of Qom that was suspended under a 2015 nuclear accord with the US and five other powers.

It was the latest action by Iran to seek tangible benefits from the deal from which the United

N-inspectors land in Iran

Vienna, Nov. 6: UN nuclear inspectors are on the ground in Iran and will report back on relevant activities, an International Atomic Energy Agency spokesman said on Wednesday after Iran said it injected uranium gas into centrifuges at its Fordow site.

"We are aware of the media reports related to Fordow. Agency inspectors are on the ground in Iran and they will report any relevant activities to IAEA headquarters in Vienna," the spokesman said in a statement.

— Reuters

States withdrew, as US President Donald Trump imposed sweeping sanctions aimed at reducing Tehran's regional role.

The state department said it would await verification by the IAEA.

— AFP



Nirav Modi

NIRAV MODI'S BAIL REJECTED BY UK COURT

London, Nov. 6: In a setback to Nirav Modi, a UK court yet again rejected a bail plea of the fugitive diamond merchant on Wednesday despite an offer of an "unprecedented bail package", which included four million pounds in security as well as house arrest, akin to those imposed on terrorist suspects.

Nirav, who is fighting extradition to India on charges of nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money-laundering case, was produced before chief magistrate, Emma Arbuthnot, at Westminster Magistrates' Court here for his fourth attempt at bail.

Dressed smartly in a white shirt and blue sweater, Modi was taken back to Wandsworth prison in south-west London and will next appear via videolink before the same court on December 4.

— PTI

Al-Baghdadi worried in last days

Beirut, Nov. 6: In his last months on the run, Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was agitated, fearful of traitors, sometimes disguised as a shepherd, sometimes hiding underground, always dependent on a shrinking circle of confidants.

Associates paint a picture of a man obsessed with his security and wellbeing and trying to find safety in towns and deserts in eastern Syria near the Iraqi border as the extremists' domains crumbled. In the end, the brutal leader, once hailed

as 'caliph' left former IS areas completely, slipping into hostile territory in Syria's northwestern Idlib province run by the radical group's al-Qaeda-linked rivals. There, he belied himself up during an Oct. 26 raid by US special forces on his heavily fortified safe house.

For months, he kept a Yazidi teen as a slave, and she recalled how he brought her along as he moved, travelling with a core group of up to seven close associates. Months ago, he delegated most of his powers to a senior deputy who is likely the



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

man announced by the group as his successor.

The Yazidi girl, who was freed in a US-led raid in May, said she stayed for four months at the home of al-Baghdadi's father-in-law, Abu Abdullah al-Zubaie. Al-Baghdadi

would visit her there frequently, rape her and at times beat her.

In the spring of 2018, she was given to another man, who took her out of Dashisha. That was the last time she saw al-Baghdadi, though he sent her a piece of jewellery as a gift, the teen said.

It appears al-Baghdadi then moved from place to place in eastern Syria as one IS stronghold after another fell to US-backed Kurdish-led forces. During that time, al-Baghdadi was a 'nervous wreck', his brother-in-law, Mohamad Ali Sajit, said.

— AP

COFFIN | TRUTH

■ **Living funerals help people appreciate their lives and seek forgiveness**

South Korean fake funerals for lessons

Seoul, Nov. 6: A South Korean service is offering free funerals — but only to the living.

More than 25,000 people have participated in mass 'living funeral' services at Hyowon Healing Center since it opened in 2012, hoping to improve their lives by simulating their deaths.

"Once you become conscious of death, and experience it, you undertake a new approach to life," said 75-year-old, Cho Jae-hee, who participated in a recent living funeral as part of a "dying well" pro-

gramme offered by her senior welfare centre.

Dozens took part in the event, from teenagers to retirees, donning shrouds, taking funeral portraits, penning their last testaments, and lying in a closed coffin for around 10 minutes.

University student Choi Jin-kyu said his time in the coffin helped him realize that too often, he viewed others as competitors.

"When I was in the coffin, I wondered what use that is," said the 28-year-old, adding that he plans to

■ **SOUTH KOREA** ranks 33 out of 40 countries surveyed in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Better Life Index



■ **IN 2016,** South Korea's suicide rate was 20.2 per 1,00,000 residents, almost double the global average of 10.53, according to the World Health Organisation

start his own business after graduation rather than attempting to enter a highly-competitive job

market. South Korea ranks 33 out of 40 countries surveyed in the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development's Better Life Index. Many younger South Koreans have high hopes for education and employment, which have been dashed by a cooling economy and rising joblessness.

"It is important to learn and prepare for death even at a young age," said Professor Yu Eun-sil, a doctor at Asan Medical Centre's pathology department, who has written a book about death.

In 2016, South Korea's suicide rate was 20.2 per 1,00,000 residents, almost

double the global average of 10.53, according to the World Health Organisation.

Funeral company Hyowon began offering the living funerals to help people appreciate their lives, and seek forgiveness and reconciliation with family and friends, said Jeong Yong-mun, who heads the healing center.

Jeong said he is heartened when people reconcile at a relative's funeral, but is saddened they wait that long.

"We don't have forever," he said.

— Reuters

SHORT TAKES



XIAOMI UNVEILS 108 MEGAPIXEL SMARTPHONE

Washington, Nov. 6: Xiaomi has finally released the CC9 Pro, its first smartphone with a 108-megapixel camera. Before you get too excited, this isn't the mind-blowing Mi Mix Alpha, which the company says will feature the 108-megapixel sensor. The device may be rolled out in a limited release in December.)

The CC9 Pro is a conventional device with a five rear camera addition. It features the 108-megapixel wide angle lens, a 5-megapixel telephoto with 5x optical zoom and 10x hybrid zoom, a 12-megapixel telephoto camera designed for portrait mode shots, a 20-megapixel ultra-wide with a 117-degree field of view, and a 2-megapixel macro lens for close-up shots. Also, the phone has a sixth 32-megapixel front camera on the front of the phone.

The 108-megapixel sensor is unusually large for a phone. It will shoot 27-megapixel shots that combine four pixels together - standard on ultra-high megapixel-count smartphones. — Agencies



SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS WARNED BY FTC

Washington, Nov. 6: In a move that raised eyebrows, social media influencers have been sent out warnings by US regulator Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The regulating body warned the influencers of potentially running the risk of breaking the law through deceptive advertising.

In a handout that was sent out by the FTC, it cautions the influencers that if they endorse a product through social media platforms, the endorsement message should make it obvious when you have a relationship with the brand such as personal, family, or employment relationship or a financial relationship.

As an influencer, it's your responsibility to make these disclosures," it said.

The cautions were mentioned in the FTC brochure: 'Disclosures 101 for Social Media Influencers.'

"Financial relationships aren't limited to money. Disclose the relationship if you got anything of value to mention a product. If a brand gives you free or discounted products or other perks and then you mention one of its products, make a disclosure even if you weren't asked to mention that product," it reads. — Agencies



'PRIVACY ESSENTIAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS'

Lisbon, Nov. 6: Microsoft President Brad Smith said on Wednesday a 'new wave' of data privacy protection and other security measures was needed to safeguard people's rights at a time when "everything has gone digital."

Speaking at Lisbon's Web Summit, Europe's largest tech conference, Smith said it was important to protect privacy, something he sees as a "fundamental human right" and one of the next decade's most critical issues. — Reuters

FB data may have been compromised, again

Profile pics, names accessed by the company's partners

Washington, Nov. 6: There seems to be no end of woes for the social networking giant, Facebook, as yet another case of massive data breach has come to the fore.

As per media reports, the user data may have been accessed by at least 100 app developers. Over the last two months, at least 11 partners are believed to have accessed details of the members.

It has emerged that user information such as profile pictures and names were accessed by video streaming and social media management apps.

In a statement, Facebook said: "Although we've seen no evidence of abuse, we will ask them to delete any member data they may have retained and we will conduct audits to confirm that it has been deleted."

The company further stated, "We've removed or restricted a number of our developer APIs, such as the Groups API, which provides an interface between Facebook and apps that can integrate with a group."

Facebook is already under the scanner after reports stated that Cambridge Analytica, a UK based political consulting firm, had harvested personal data of over 87

WhatsApp update controls users' addition to groups

New Delhi, Nov. 6: WhatsApp has rolled out a new privacy update that will allow users to select contacts that will not be able to add them to groups, the popular messaging app said on Wednesday.

The update is rolling out to users around the world on the latest version of WhatsApp, said the Facebook-owned company that is facing flak over Pegasus spyware, which was used to snoop on scribes and activists.

"Based on feedback from users during our initial rollout, instead of the 'Nobody' option we are now providing, a 'My Contacts Except' option. This allows you to choose to exclude specific contacts or 'select all,'" WhatsApp said in a blog-post.

WhatsApp has over 1.5 billion users globally, of which India alone accounts for about 400 million.

million users. Facebook was asked to pay a hefty

■ The latest feature replaces the 'Nobody' option with 'My Contacts Except,' helping users exclude specific contacts from adding them to groups without their permission.

The platform in April introduced controls that allowed users to decide who can add them to groups. Previously, WhatsApp users could be added to groups without their consent.

The latest feature replaces the 'Nobody' option with 'My Contacts Except,' helping users exclude specific contacts from adding them to groups without their permission. The other two options — 'my contacts' and 'everyone' — will continue to exist.

Group administrators can invite a person to a

group using a private invite through an individual chat, giving the user choice of joining the group.

Interestingly, the spyware incident is helping WhatsApp's rivals — Telegram and Signal — garner more users in India.

Last week, after WhatsApp's disclosure that the spyware had targeted Indian users as well, the government had asked WhatsApp to explain the matter and list out the measures that were taken by the app to protect the privacy of millions of users.

WhatsApp sources had said the platform had informed the government in September that 121 Indian users had been targeted with the spyware, Pegasus, after sending an alert in May. The officials, however, maintained that the past information had been inadequate and incomplete. — PTI

ission for the data breach. — Agencies

Uber self-driving software had flaws, says US agency

Washington, Nov. 6: An Uber self-driving test vehicle that struck and killed an Arizona woman in 2018 had software flaws, the National Transportation Safety Board said on Tuesday as it disclosed the company's autonomous test vehicles were involved in 37 crashes over the prior 18 months.

NTSB may use the findings from the first fatal self-driving car accident to make recommendations that could impact how the entire industry addresses self-driving software issues or to regulators about how to oversee the industry.

The board will meet Nov. 19 to determine the probable cause of the March 2018 accident in Tempe, Arizona that killed 49-year-old Elaine Herzberg as she was walking a bicycle across a street at night.

In a report released ahead of the meeting, the NTSB said the Uber Technologies Inc. vehicle had failed to properly identify her as a pedestrian crossing a street.

That accident prompted significant safety concerns about the nascent self-driving car industry, which is working to get vehicles into commercial use.

In the aftermath of the crash, Uber suspended all testing and did not resume until December in Pennsylvania with revised software and significant new restrictions and safeguards.

A spokeswoman for Uber's self-driving car effort, Sarah Abboud, said



the company regretted the crash that killed Herzberg and noted it has "adopted critical program improvements to further prioritize safety."

We deeply value the thoroughness of the NTSB's investigation into the crash and look forward to reviewing their recommendations."

The NTSB reported at least two prior crashes in which Uber test vehicles may not have identified roadway hazards.

The NTSB said between September 2016 and March 2018, there were 37 crashes of Uber vehicles in autonomous mode, including 33 that involved another vehicle striking test vehicles.

In one incident, the test vehicle struck a bent bicycle lane post that partially occupied the test vehicle's lane of travel.

In another incident, the operator took control to

avoid a rapidly approaching vehicle that entered its lane of travel. The vehicle operator steered away and struck a parked car.

NTSB said Uber conducted simulation of sensor data from the Arizona crash with the revised software and told the agency the new software would have been able to detect the pedestrian 88 meters (289 feet) or 4.5 seconds before impact. The car's system would have started to brake 4 seconds before impact.

In the actual accident, the test vehicle did not correctly identify the bicycle as an imminent collision until 1.2 seconds before impact. It was too late for the Uber car to avoid the crash.

"The system design did not include a consideration for jaywalking pedestrians," NTSB said.

— Reuters

'CHINESE MOVE WILL OPEN UP DIGITAL MONIES'

Hong Kong, Nov. 6: China's digital currency will create a 'horse race' when it is launched as commercial banks and other institutions compete to provide the best services using the new form of money, a central bank official said on Wednesday.

China is preparing to be the first country to roll out a digitized domestic currency, a development that is being closely watched by the world's financial services industries, though few details are currently available.

Akin to Facebook's proposed Libra digital currency, the Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP) project will be powered partially by blockchain technology.

The People's Bank of China will adopt a two-tier approach with its project, Mu Changchun, the head of the central bank's digital currency research institute, told a forum in Hong Kong. It will first issue the currency to commercial banks and other institutions, who will then resend it to the general public.

"During the research period, and also the issuance period there will be a horse race approach," Mu said.

"The front runner will take the whole market — who is more efficient, who can provide a better service to the public — they can survive in the future."

— Reuters

THE ALL-SURFACE TOUCH PROJECTOR

Sony has over the years released a number of experimental products designed for various purposes. The company's Xperia Touch, the ultra-cool Android projector that turns any surface into a touchscreen, has been unveiled at the 2017 Mobile World Congress.

■ THE XPERIA Touch is a lot more than just a projector, with Sony aiming it to be a digital hub for families.

■ THE COMPANY has created its own user interface for the Touch, which puts a bunch of information in one place, including calendar events, real-time weather data, and a 'memo board' anyone can doodle on.

■ USERS CAN access Skype video chat from this screen, or leave video notes.

■ BESIDES the digital pinboard functionality, the Touch projector can do anything that is expected from an Android tablet.

■ The Touch uses Sony's SXRD projection display technology and detects users' gestures and taps using a combination of infrared sensors and a regular 60 fps camera. It measures just 69 x 134 x 143 mm, making it one of the sleekest projectors.

■ USERS CAN browse the web, watch videos or slideshows, and download apps and games from the Google Play Store.

■ THE PROJECTOR also works with the PS4's remote play feature, which allows the user to use it to game over the internet if someone else is using the TV attached to the console.



A user accesses various features on a screen projected against a wall.

■ Xperia Touch manages the impossible. It's packed with state-of-the-art technologies yet impressively compact and elegant in design. It's lightweight and understated, to move seamlessly into any room of your home. The lightweight, compact body boasts top technologies — miniaturised. Xperia Touch includes Sony's unique SXRD short throw projection unit and strategically-placed two-way stereo speakers for rich sound.

Nokia-Flipkart to launch smart TVs

New Delhi, Nov. 6: After Motorola, Nokia has now partnered e-commerce major Flipkart for launching smart TVs in the Indian market, marking the smartphone maker's foray into consumer durables space.

Flipkart has entered into a strategic relationship with Nokia that grants it the use of the Nokia brand for smart TVs in India, a global first for the brand in the TV category, a statement said on Wednesday.

"Flipkart will leverage its understanding of the needs of Indian consumers to develop, facilitate the manufacturing and distribution of the Nokia branded smart TVs, while managing the end-to-end go-to-market strategy," it added.

The companies, however, didn't give any information about product specifications, pricing and launch date.

A number of phone companies have now added smart TVs to their product portfolio. These

include players such as Samsung, Micromax, Intex, Xiaomi, Motorola and OnePlus.

In September, Motorola had announced its partnership with Walmart-backed Flipkart to launch its smart TVs in India. Its television sets — available in display sizes ranging from 32-inches to 65-inches — are priced at ₹13,999 onwards.

The Nokia branded smart TVs will feature audio powered by JBL's sound program.

"Nokia is a globally popular technology brand and enjoys immense brand recall, so we're excited to start this journey with them to extend the brand into a fast-growing product segment," Flipkart senior vice-president, Adarsh Menon, said.

Flipkart also offers smart TVs under its private label — MarQ by Flipkart. It offers smart TVs with screen size of 24-inches to 65-inches UHD, priced between ₹6,999 to ₹64,999. — PTI



XEROX MULLING TAKEOVER OFFER FOR HP

Washington, Nov. 6: Xerox Holdings Corp is considering making a cash-and-stock offer for personal computer maker HP Inc at a premium to its market value of about \$27 billion, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Xerox's board discussed the possibility, the newspaper said, citing people familiar with the matter.

There is no guarantee that Xerox will follow through with an offer or that one would succeed, it added.

Norwalk, Connecticut-based Xerox has also received an informal funding commitment from a major bank, the Journal said.

HP does not comment on rumors or speculation, a company spokeswoman said.

Xerox did not respond to a request for comment.

On Monday, Xerox had said it will sell its 25% stake in Fuji Xerox, its joint venture with Fujifilm Holdings, for \$2.3 billion, after investor activism scuppered a deal involving the two companies.

Xerox had scrapped its \$6.1 billion deal to merge with Fujifilm last year after lobbying by two of its main investors, Carl Icahn and Darwin Deason.

HP has been struggling with its printer business segment recently, with the division's third-quarter revenue dropping 5% on-year. In October, it had announced a plan to cut up to 9,000 jobs as part of a restructuring program. — Reuters

SAFE | MESSAGING Company plans to educate users about how the secret conversations work

FB to expand encryption despite concerns

Lisbon, Nov. 6: Facebook is set to outline plans to expand encryption across its Messenger platform, despite warnings from regulators and government officials that the enhanced security will help protect paedophiles and other criminals.

Executives said they will also detail safety measures, including stepped-up advisories for recipients of unwanted content.

The moves follow complaints by top law enforcement officials in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia that Facebook's plan to encrypt messaging on all its platforms would put child sex predators and

pornographers beyond detection.

The changes, supported by civil rights groups and many technology experts, will be more fully described by company executives at a Lisbon tech conference on Thursday.

Facebook messaging privacy chief, Jay Sullivan, and other executives said the company would press ahead with the changes while more carefully scrutinizing the data that it collects.

Sullivan plans to call attention to a little-publicized option for end-to-end encryption that already exists on Messenger. The firm hopes increased usage will give the compa-

■ The move to expand encryption comes after complaints by top law enforcement officials in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia that Facebook's plan to encrypt messaging on all its platforms would put child sex predators and pornographers beyond detection.

ny more data to craft additional safety measures before it makes private

chats the default setting. "This is a good test bed for us," Sullivan said. "It's part of the overarching direction."

The company will also post more on its pages for users about how the Secret Conversations function works. The feature has been available since 2016 but is not easy to find and takes extra clicks to activate.

The company is also considering banning new Messenger accounts not linked to regular Facebook profiles.

The vast majority of Messenger accounts are associated with Facebook profiles but a greater proportion of stand-alone

accounts are used for crime and unwelcome communications, executives said.

"We're considering a registration process where prospective Messenger users will only be able to sign up for Messenger by creating or logging into a Facebook account," a Facebook spokesperson said.

Requiring a link to Facebook would reduce the privacy protections of those Messenger users but give the company more information it could use to warn or block troublesome accounts or report suspected crimes to police.

The enhanced safety measures the company

plans include sending reminders to users to report unwanted contacts and inviting recipients of unwanted content to send plain-text versions of the chats to Facebook to ban senders or potentially report them to police.

Facebook might also send more prompts to users reached by people with no shared friends or who have had many messages or friend requests rejected.

Facebook had previously said it wanted to ease user reporting of misconduct as it gradually moves toward more encryption, but it has given few details. — Reuters

Stricter rules for core investment cos on anvil

India emissions see highest rise globally



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,469.78	+0.55
Nifty 50	11,966.05	+0.41
S&P 500	3,070.80	-0.12
Dollar (₹)	70.98	+0.41
Pound Sterling (₹)	91.42	+0.28
Euro (₹)	78.65	+0.36
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,870*301	-0.77
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	61.76	-1.91
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.491	-0.368
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	1.841	-1.287

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Cairn gets 10-yr extension at Ravva oil fields

Vedanta group firm Cairn Oil and Gas has secured a 10-year extension of the contract for its Ravva oil and gas fields off the Andhra Pradesh coast. “With this extension, the production sharing contract is now valid effective October 28, 2019, for the next 10 years,” the company said on Wednesday. Ravva is the oldest producing asset for Cairn in India.

Fitch raises FY20 fiscal deficit forecast to 3.6%



Fitch Solutions raised India's fiscal deficit forecast to 3.6 per cent of the GDP for this fiscal year, from 3.4 per cent previously, due to weak revenue collections resulting from sluggish economic growth and the government's sweeping corporate tax rate cut. Fitch said revenue collection is likely to fall far short of the projections in the FY2019/20 Union Budget.

Adani, DIAL among 4 bidders for Jewar airport

Adani Enterprises, Delhi Airport International Ltd, Zurich Airport International AG and Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited have bid for the proposed Rs 29,560-crore Jewar International Airport, officials said. Technical bids for selection of the concessionaire were opened at the office of the Noida International Airport Ltd.

India gains \$755 mn extra from trade war

India gained about \$755 million in additional exports, mainly of chemicals, metals and ore, to the US in the first half of 2019 due to the trade diversion effects of Washington's tariff war with China, a study by the UN trade and investment body (UNCTAD) has said. The study shows that the US-China trade war has resulted in a sharp decline in bilateral trade and higher prices for consumers.

Centre okays rescue package for ailing real estate sector Stalled realty projects get ₹25,000-crore bailout fund

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

In a relief for thousands of homebuyers, the Centre on Wednesday cleared a fund worth ₹25,000 crore which would be used to complete more than 1,600 stalled housing projects, including those which have been admitted under insolvency proceedings or declared as bad loans.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters after the meeting of the union cabinet where the proposal was cleared, that the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) will consist of ₹10,000 crore which would be Centre's share, while the remaining amount would be provided by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and State Bank of India (SBI).

Being termed as a “special window” for incomplete housing projects, Ms Sitharaman had first mentioned about the fund on September 14.

Projects whose net worth is less and are almost near completion, could be assessed and if it is found that these can be complet-

LONG OVERDUE

- Only RERA-registered projects with positive networth will be provided funds
- The AIF funds will be released in stages through an escrow account and will be contingent upon completion of the approved phase
- The size of the fund may be increased with the participation of sovereign and pension funds

ed in a limited span of time after infusion of funds, could be prioritised, official sources said.

She, however, said that only RERA-registered projects with positive networth will be provided funds, adding that the scheme is a modified version of the September 14 plan.

The key change is allowing the AIF to fund projects that lenders may have declared as non-performing assets (NPAs) or which have been dragged to the NCLT for insolvency proceedings.

The AIF funds will be released in stages through an escrow account and will be contingent upon completion of the approved phase, she said, adding the size of the fund

DECISION WILL BRING RELIEF TO HOME BUYERS

New Delhi, Nov. 6: Real estate developers welcomed the government's move to create a ₹25,000-crore fund to help complete over 1,600 stalled housing projects, saying it will solve the long-pending problem of homebuyers.

“It's a very welcome change from the initial announcement (of September 14). Now the only criteria for eligibility is network positive projects,” real estate developers association CREDAI Chairman Jaxay Shah said.

Property brokerage firm Anarock's Chairman Anuj Puri said the move will bring huge relief to stuck homebuyers and boost sentiment in the sector. In his comments, Naredco president Nirranjan Hirnandani said the vexed problem of delayed and stalled real estate projects appears to have found a solution. —PTI

Irdai's FDI norms puzzle insurance cos

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

In tune with the Budget announcement, regulator Irdai has notified foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in insurance intermediaries to 100 per cent. However, it has specified a few conditions that the industry finds difficult to be complied.

In the last Budget, the Centre had announced that the FDI limit would be raised from 49 per cent to 100 per cent for insurance intermediaries like aggregators, brokers, marketing firms and corporate agents. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has notified the same by laying down norms to be followed by intermediaries that have majority shareholding of foreign investors. Irdai wants such companies to have at least one top executive—the Chairman of the Board of Directors or Chief Executive Officer or Principal Officer or Managing Director—to be a resident Indian citizen.

Also, the majority of the directors on the board should be resident Indian citizens. Further, the

majority of key management persons also should be resident Indian citizens.

According to industry experts, the companies could find it difficult to comply with these norms. “We are a bit confused how companies with majority in foreign shareholding can have resident Indians as majority board directors and key management people. We need to have more clarity on this,” said an expert.

Further, the companies should take Irdai's prior permission for repatriating dividend. It should not make payments, other than dividend, to related parties taken as a whole, beyond 10 per cent of the total expenses of the company in a financial year.

“How can a company assess the expenses in a financial year beforehand?” he asked.

Irdai also wants them to make disclosures on payments made to its group or promoter or subsidiary or interconnected or associate entities in the specified format. The company also should be incorporated as a limited company and bring in the latest technological, managerial and other skills.

Speculation in complaints appalling, says Nilekani

New Delhi, Nov. 6: Infosys on Wednesday said speculations of co-founders and former employees being involved in the recent whistleblower allegations were “appalling” and seem to be aimed at tarnishing the image of some of “the most accomplished and respected individuals”.

Infosys, which is investigating whistleblower complaints that alleged unethical practices by its top management, later said in a regulator filing that the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, have sought information from it on the complaints.

Also, the company has been asked by the National Stock Exchange and the BSE for “further information” on the complaints.

Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani, in a statement, condemned the “mischievous insinuations



made by anonymous sources against the co-founders and former colleagues, suggesting their involvement in the recent whistleblower allegations”.

“These speculations are appalling and seem to be aimed at tarnishing the image of some of the most accomplished and respected individuals. I have deep regard for the life-long contribution of all our co-founders,” Nilekani said.

He pointed out that an external law firm is already conducting an independent investigation into the allegations, and said the outcome of the

investigation will be shared with all stakeholders at the relevant time.

The Bengaluru-based company also sought to assure investors that the accusations have had little impact on the company's ability to win contracts.

“Customers are supportive, we have proactively reached out” to clients, Nilekani said on a call with analysts on Wednesday. Despite the “distraction” the company has complete focus on the business, he said, adding that Parekh informed him about a “large deal” recently.

“Infosys has very strong processes, even God can't change the numbers of this company..We have an outstanding finance team people of highest integrity and they are feeling insulted by these allegations ... But I don't want to bias the investigation.” Nilekani said at the analyst meet. —Agencies

Toyota, Suzuki eye cash for clunker policy

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 6

Japanese giant automakers Suzuki Motor Corp and Toyota Motor Corp will foray into the vehicle dismantling and recycling business in India through their joint venture called Maruti Suzuki Toyotsu India Private Limited.

The equal joint venture between Maruti Suzuki, Suzuki's Indian arm, and Toyota Tsusho India, a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp, will set up the first vehicle-dismantling unit in Noida with a capacity to handle 2,000 vehicles per month.

The joint venture will subsequently have similar

scrapyards in different parts of the country.

The Wednesday announcement from the Japanese behemoths comes close on the heels of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways having started working on its policy for vehicle scrapping to reduce the number of old vehicles on Indian roads.

As per the government, an estimated 28 million end-of-life vehicles across categories will be ready to be scrapped by April 2020.

Maruti Suzuki Toyotsu India, which will be headquartered in New Delhi, will set up the vehicle dismantling and recycling unit in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, in FY2021.

MSTI will procure and dismantle end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). The process will include complete solid and liquid waste management as per the Indian laws and globally approved quality & environment standards.

The facility in Noida will be the first unit by MSTI and the JV will add more such units across India.

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

The National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru has initiated insolvency proceedings against Flipkart for making a default of Rs 18 crore to a supplier: However, Flipkart said the Karnataka High Court has stayed the NCLT order.

The NCLT accepted the petition filed by Mumbai-based CloudWalker Streaming Technologies, an LED TV supplier to Flipkart. As per the petition, Flipkart has paid only Rs 85 crore against dues of Rs 103 crore.

Under an agreement entered by both the parties in December 2016, CloudWalker has been importing and supplying LED TVs to Flipkart but the latter allegedly failed to collect all the TVs for which orders were placed, failed to pay excess charges and costs as promised and



failed to honour the commitment. The e-commerce company also coerced the company offer discounts on the TVs. By March 2018, Flipkart had failed to collect 70 per cent of the goods ordered by them.

Flipkart opposed the petition under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, contending that it is a profit-making company with sufficient financial strength. It also contended that CloudWalker has failed to produce Purchase Orders or invoices to support the claim. Flipkart maintained that instead of finalising the disputed amounts, CloudWalker has filed Instant Company Petition on untenable grounds.

Indian women make a mark in artificial intelligence skills

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

India is inconsistent when it comes to women advancement in the workforce, finds a global study. While India has a low 27 per cent women participation in workforce, it has a higher-than-average share of women with artificial intelligence skills sets.

Heidrick and Struggles, a global provider of executive search, leadership assessment and development, found that India has an inconsistent history of

women's advancement, shaped by cultural norms that strongly favour males from birth. The country's gender inequality is difficult to tackle, as women in India have a low 27 per cent rate of workforce participation. The report finds that the low participation rate is attributed to various cultural factors, as well as challenges faced by women in the workplace, such as healthcare access, gender bias, and lack of flexible working opportunities.

But there have been some positive trends as well.

Indian has higher-than-average share of women with artificial intelligence skill sets (22 per cent) compared to other countries.

“Thanks to the growing involvement of leaders committed to creating a more inclusive work environment, we are seeing a growing trend of more women becoming equipped with the latest technology skill sets. This indicates an increasing number of women in India are entering a space which was commonly seen as a male-dominated domain,” Gauri

Padmanabhan, Partner, Heidrick & Struggles said.

The study found that the government has taken a number of initiatives such as furthering girls' education, improved healthcare, and maternity benefits, which tackle some of the basic challenges faced by women in the workplace. The Sebi has formulated guidelines for the inclusion of women on the boards of listed companies by early 2020 and companies are also implementing their own programmes. Many IT companies are comput-

er programming boot camp specifically for women developers who have left the field but are interested in reskilling and rejoining the technical workforce.

“Most academic excellence entrance examinations have been showcasing the growing dominance of women amongst rank holders and across all streams including science and engineering hence the findings are not surprising as well as equally welcoming. However the question that arise in my mind is how many of these women

actually find their way into the active formal workforce as well as stay there,” said Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive vice president of TeamLease Services.

Though Diversity and Inclusion programmes in Asia are focusing on women in leadership, race and ethnicity and sexual orientation, in India the programmes are dominated by women-focused initiatives. Programmes focused on race and ethnicity and LGBTQ engagement are still at a nascent

stage in the country.

“Going forward, Indian businesses need to widen the scope of D&I with the objective of including the LGBTQ community and differently-abled people. Tackling gender disparity in India is currently the foremost concern, given our cultural norms. But as women break barriers and step forward in every area, we will gradually be able to create pathways for inclusion of other communities and this will indeed be welcome progress,” said Padmanabhan.



New job

Melanie Jones, former international cricketer, has been appointed director of Cricket Australia

3



T20 cricket is bit of lottery but India among favourites for next World Cup.

— Adam Gilchrist, former Australian captain

SHORT TAKES

Series win will boost side: Riyad

Rajkot: Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah Riyad on Wednesday said a T20 series win against hosts India will be a "big boost" for Bangladesh cricket in the wake of recent setbacks, including the ban on star player Shakib-Al-Hasan. "If you concentrate on the recent (developments), whatever is going on in Bangladesh cricket, a series win will be a big boost for Bangladesh cricket and also a big boost for the team," Mahmudullah said. "And hopefully as I have mentioned, tomorrow we have to play good cricket to beat India because we know that they are a good side at home and across the world, so we have to on our top from the first ball," he said. Ahead of the India tour, star-all-rounder Shakib was banned for two years. — PTI

Archer Shivani gets sponsorship

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Young Archer Cherukuri Dolly Shivani secured a three-year sponsorship from Kakinada Sea Ports. For Shivani's

International exposure Kakinada sea ports will be spending ₹15 lakh per year. They would spend a total of ₹45 lakh to sponsor Shivani for the next three years.



Cherukuri Dolly Shivani

Seven-and-a-half-year-old Shivani a current national champion in the Under 12 category and a three-time consecutive national champion in the Under 9 category. She began her career under the guidance of her father Ch Satyanaraya in Vijayawada. At 35 months she participated in the Nationals and emerged champion at 5. She is now planning to participate in the Asian Youth Cup in Macau. Shivani aims to win a gold medal in the 2024 Olympics, 2021 Youth Olympics and 2020 Asian Games.

Baby Leagues at Sreenidhi FC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The Sreenidhi Football Club is hosting Golden Baby Leagues from November 23, 2019 to February 16, 2020 at the Sreenidhi Football Club in Hyderabad. "We invite teams from clubs, academies, schools, communities as also private teams to participate in the leagues," the Club said in a press release.

Following is the eligibility criteria vis-a-vis a player's year of birth: Under 7 — 2012 & 2013; Under 9 — 2010 & 2011; Under 11 — 2008 & 2009. Registrations can be made by calling phone number 9912044414 or via e-mail to sreenidhifootballclub@sreegroup.edu.in.

Indus Universal register huge win

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Indus Universal claimed thumping win over CMR defeating them 16-2, in the Inter-school futsal tournament on Wednesday.

Arjun scored five goals followed by Anish who got three. Arjun was declared Man of the Match for his stellar performance.

The second match witnessed another one sided show where St Michael's routed Pallavi Model School 22-1. Rohan scored seven goals respectively for Michael's who dominated from the start to finish. Rohan was awarded Man of the Match.

THE RESULTS

■ Regford International bt St Mary's Bethany (w/o); Indus Universal (Arjun 5, Anish 3) bt CMR 16-2; Greenview School bt Meridian (w/o); St. Michael's (Rohan 7) bt Pallavi Model School 22-1.



Bangladesh cricketers play football during a training session in Rajkot.

— AP

India look to hit back

Shaken India look to level series, Bangla eye another upset

Skipper defends batting line-up

Rajkot, Nov. 6: Their frailties in the shortest format under the scanner, India would be aiming to ensure that a plucky Bangladesh don't run away with the momentum when the two sides clash in the second T20 International, which is facing a cyclonic threat here on Thursday.

India lost the smog-hit opening T20 in Delhi by seven wickets on Sunday, a stunning result against a side which landed here after a players' strike over pay and other issues and the suspension of their biggest cricketer — Shakib Al Hasan — for failure to report corrupt approaches.

India have not had the kind of success in T20s as they have enjoyed in the other two formats of late and that is evident from the results this year. They have already lost a series at home this year — to Australia — before drawing against South Africa who were otherwise hammered in Tests.

In the absence of some senior players, including regular skipper Virat Kohli, the second game of the three-match series is an ideal platform for the fringe players to show what they are made of. All this will depend on how much of an impact Cyclone Maha, which is expected to make landfall in Gujarat on match day, has on the weather in the city.

In fact, heavy rains, associated with lightening, lashed the city on Wednesday evening. The wicket at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium is, however, protected with covers. In



Manish Pandey (left) and Shardul Thakur during a practice session ahead of the second T20 in Rajkot.

— AP

their loss in the series opener, stand-in-captain Rohit Sharma admitted that India were not up to the mark in the field and a few wrong DRS calls also contributed to the eye-opening defeat.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan's form and strike-rate is also a concern going into the game on Thursday. A series loss to Bangladesh will only pose more questions to the

home team as it looks to zero in on a settled squad for next year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

The hosts had a troublesome time with the bat in Delhi where they recovered to post 148, which was chased down brilliantly by experienced Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim. Rohit, who had a rare failure on Sunday, would be keen to lead by example. — PTI

MS UNLIKELY TO COMMENTATE DURING FIRST DAY/ NIGHT TEST

New Delhi, Nov. 6: Mahendra Singh Dhoni is unlikely to make his commentary debut in the Day-Night Test between India and Bangladesh, sources close to the former India captain said.

Host broadcaster Star Sports has sent a pro-

posal to the BCCI on Dhoni commentating in the landmark game but the board is yet to respond. Dhoni, who has not played for India since the World Cup semifinal in July, remains a contracted player of the BCCI. — PTI

Rajkot, Nov. 6: India captain Rohit Sharma hinted at rejigging the pace combination for the second T20 International against Bangladesh on Thursday while defending the batting line-up, in which senior opener Shikhar Dhawan has been struggling for some time.

India had a par-score of 148 on a sluggish Kotla track and it was pacer Khaleel Ahmed, who was hit for four boundaries by Mushfiqur Rahim in the 19th over that changed the complexion of the game. "Our batting looks good. So I don't think there's any change we need to make in our batting. But we'll analyse the pitch, and based on that we'll see what we can do as a team," Rohit said.

While he didn't take names but there is a chance of Shardul Thakur coming in place of Khaleel, whose pace at times is making it easier for the opposition to negotiate at the death overs. "The (pace-bowling) combination that we played in the last game, it was based on the pitch that was on offer in Delhi. We will see the pitch again today and we will think what we need to do in our bowling line-up," the skipper said.

Rohit is expecting Rajkot track to play better than the one at Kotla. "The pitch looks good. Rajkot has always been a good track to bat on and it does offer some assistance to the bowlers also. It will be a good pitch. I'm pretty sure it will be better than what you saw in Delhi," he



Our batting looks good. So I don't think there's any change we need to make in our batting. But we'll analyse the pitch, and based on that we'll see what we can do as a team.

—ROHIT SHARMA, India captain

opined. While strategy is a confidential thing, a change in approach is something that the stand-in skipper expects from his mates. "I cannot tell you strategy but what I can definitely tell you is that there will be changes in our approach. In the last match (in New Delhi), we played according to the pitch. We were playing as per the ways the pitch was reacting. "But if the pitch here (at Rajkot) is good, our approach will be different as well in both bowling and batting (departments)."

He cited reasons why it was difficult to bat on a Delhi track. "The pitch in Delhi was challenging, the ball was gripping and turning," he said. — PTI

Telangana athletes scorch track



Ravichandran Ashwin signs autographs for young fans.

ASHWIN LOOKS TO NURTURE FUTURE CHAMP CRICKETERS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

India's first residential, fully integrated sports school — Gaudium Sportopia — launched its own cricket academy at Velimela Village in Medak district on Wednesday in collaboration with GenNext Cricket Institute that is mentored by Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin.

After setting up academies in badminton, chess, table tennis, basketball,

and roller skating, Sportopia have now ventured into cricket. "I am confident that this latest collaboration will create a new roadmap for producing champions for the future," said Ms Kirithi Reddy, Director and Founder of the School.

"GenNext Institute and I are very delighted to be associated with Gaudium Sportopia. I am looking forward to seeing some of these youngsters take India to even greater heights in the future," Ashwin said.

Meanwhile, Telangana's Jeevanji Deepthi won silver with her 27.67 seconds effort in the girls Under-18 200m event. Priya Habbathanahally of Karnataka took gold in 24.49 while Payal Vohra of Delhi claimed bronze with a timing of 24.97.

Andhra Pradesh's Nalubothu Shanmuga Srinivas stunned the Boys Under-18 200m field with a blistering run. His time of 21.34 seconds was a meet record, clipping 0.16 seconds off. — Agencies

SELECTED RESULTS

GIRLS U-20

■ **3000m Steeplechase:** 1. G. Maheshwari (Telangana) 10:34.10 (New National and Meet Record. Old National Record: 10:53.91, Nandini Gupta, Lucknow, 2017. Old Meet Record: 10:55.54, Khushboo Gupta, Mangalagiri, 2017); 2. Rujuta Dudharan Shende (Maharashtra) 11:15.70; 3. Smith DR (Karnataka) 11:41.78.
■ **200m:** 1. Kaveri Laxmangouda Patil (Karnataka) 24.48; 2. Santra Teresa Martin (Tamil Nadu) 24.65; 3. Roshini K (Tamil Nadu) 24.78.
■ **400m Hurdles:** 1. Nibha KM (Kerala) 1:01.55; 2. Khsuhdeep Kaur (Punjab) 1:02.79; 3. Arathi R (Kerala) 1:03.13.
■ **4x400m Relay:** 1. Kerala (Arathi R, Soorya Mol T, Riyamol Joy and Nibha KM) 3:50.51; 2. Delhi 3:51.93; 3. Haryana 3:52.42.
■ **Triple Jump:** 1. Praveen Chithravel (Tamil Nadu) 15.85m; 2. Gailey Venister (Andhra Pradesh) 15.46; 2. Aravindh E (Tamil Nadu) 15.43.

BOYS U-20

■ **200m:** 1. Nalubothu Shanmuga Srinivas (Andhra Pradesh) 21.34 seconds (New Meet Record. Old: 21.50, Nisar Ahmed, Ranchi, 2018); 2. Shashikanth Virupakshappa Anga (Karnataka) 21.35; 3. Aniket Choduhary (Telangana) 21.83.

GIRLS U-18

■ **200m:** 1. Priya Habbathanahally (Karnataka) 24.49 secs; 2. Jeevanji Deepthi (Telangana) 24.67; 3. Payal Vohra (Delhi) 24.97.
■ **400m Hurdles:** 1. Vishrutha C (Tamil Nadu) 1:04.40; 2. Botla Ranga Johnsi (Andhra Pradesh) 1:06.34; 3. Nirmal Punia (Haryana) 1:06.40.



Shanmuga Srinivas



G. Maheshwari in action during the 3,000 metres steeplechase event in the Girls U-20 category.



Gomes discharged

Everton midfielder Andre Gomes has been discharged from hospital after a successful surgery on his ankle

DECCAN CHRONICLE

THURSDAY | 7 NOVEMBER 2019 | HYDERABAD

Games

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The plan was to win the game and we did that, so job done.

— Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager, after defeating Genk 4-1 in their Champions League Group 'E' match

SHORT TAKES

Arsenal replace Khaka as skipper

London: Arsenal manager Unai Emery confirmed on Tuesday that Granit Khaka has been stripped of the club captaincy after an emotional outburst towards supporters. The Swiss international swore and threw the captain's armband to the floor after being booed as he was substituted against Crystal Palace 10 days ago.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who led Arsenal for Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Wolves, will take over as captain. Khaka was not included in the squad for the Wolves match or Wednesday's visit to Vitoria Guimaraes in the Europa League.

"I was speaking with him this morning and also I decided he's not one of the captains in our group and I decided that and I told him this morning," Emery said. "He accepted my decision. "We have now Aubameyang, Hector (Bellerin), (Alexandre) Lacazette and (Mesut) Ozil - they are the four captains, and first is now Aubameyang." "I needed to take one decision, and now it is closed," Emery added. — AFP

Bhupathi hits out at tennis body

New Delhi, Nov. 6: Mahesh Bhupathi says he does not mind being fired as the Indian Davis Cup team's captain but what is unacceptable to him is the tennis federation's allegation that he refused national duty. Bhupathi, one of the most successful players in India's tennis history, insisted that he never made himself unavailable for the Pakistan tie, which has now been shifted out of Islamabad by the ITF due to security concerns. The All India Tennis Association (AITA) chose former Davis Cupper Rohit Rajpal as Bhupathi's successor. "I am not going to sit back after winning 12 Grand Slams and playing for country for 25 years to allow someone to say I am fired because I did not show up for national duty," a fuming Bhupathi said. "I don't mind being fired. They can say it's time for a new captain. But nobody can say that I refused national duty. I genuinely thought it's unsafe to travel to Pakistan which the ITF has validated. So, they are going to penalise me and players for this, it's not going to work," he added. — PTI

ROGER, NOVAK DRAWN IN SAME HALF

London: Spectators will be hoping for a mini repeat of this year's epic Wimbledon final between Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer after the two tennis legends were drawn in the same group for next week's climax to the season, the ATP Finals.

Their group clash in London will only be the best of three sets — Austria's two-time French Open finalist Dominic Thiem and Italian Matteo Berrettini make up the quartet. World number one Rafael Nadal is in a group with this year's US Open finalist Daniil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece and Germany's Alexander Zverev. Nadal declared himself fit for the finals on Tuesday after he pulled out of last week's Paris Masters semifinal. Nadal had still replaced Djokovic as world number one in ATP rankings but the Serbian can reclaim it. — AFP

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20
Printed and Published by
T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited.
Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press
situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village,
Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal,
Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and
Published at 36, S.D. Road,
Secunderabad-3.
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957.
Editor: Aditya Sinha



Reece James celebrates Chelsea's equaliser during their Group 'H' Champions League match against Ajax at the Stamford Bridge in London on Wednesday. Chelsea drew with Ajax 4-4. — CHELSEA

Chelsea avoid Blues

Rally from 1-4 down to level with Ajax in dramatic game

Paris, Nov. 6: Jorginho scored two penalties as Chelsea came roaring back from 1-4 down to draw 4-4 with nine-man Ajax in a Champions League classic on Tuesday, while holders Liverpool claimed a narrow victory and a stuttering Barcelona were held. Ajax appeared to be heading for a stunning victory when Hakim Ziyech set up Donny van de Beek to put them 4-1 ahead 10 minutes into the second half.

Before that, Jorginho quickly levelled from the spot after Tammy Abraham's own goal gave the Dutch champions a second-minute lead, but a Quincy Promes header and a Kepa Arrizabalaga own goal made it 3-1 at the break. After conceding again, Cesar Azpilicueta poked in from close range for Chelsea to pull it back to 2-4.

The result means Ajax, Chelsea and Valencia are level on seven points atop Group 'H', with the Spaniards coming from behind to beat Lille 4-1.

LIVERPOOL GO PAST GENK

Liverpool won 4-1 in Genk two weeks ago and looked on course for another comfortable victory against the Belgians when Georginio Wijnaldum gave them the lead at Anfield.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (centre) vies for the ball with Slavia Pragues' Ondrej Kudela (right) and Michal Frydrych (left) during their UEFA Champions League Group 'F' football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Tuesday. The match ended in a stalemate. — AFP

Tanzanian striker Mbwana Ally Samatta headed Genk level before the interval, and it took a fine strike by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to win the game. "The plan was to win the game and we did that, so job done," admitted Klopp.

Liverpool are top of Group 'E', a point above Napoli, who could have qualified for the last-16 with a win against Salzburg but were held. In Germany, Inter looked to be heading for a second straight win against Dortmund as they

raced into a 2-0 half-time lead with Lautaro Martinez and Matias Vecino scoring. Yet Dortmund fought back in the second half to win the game as Achraf Hakimi grabbed a brace either side of a Julian Brandt goal. — AFP

Springboks return to hero's welcome

Johannesburg, Nov. 6: Siya Kolisi kept hoisting the Rugby World Cup trophy in the air and the thousands of South Africans who gathered to welcome home their triumphant Springboks team cheered louder each time.

The Springboks' first black captain gave his nation another golden rugby moment when he paraded the Webb Ellis Cup through a packed arrivals hall at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

The surprisingly dominant 32-12 win over England in Saturday's final in Japan delivered South Africa's third Rugby World Cup title. There's a mood at home that this one might be as meaningful as the first in 1995, won in front of Nelson Mandela and in the immediate aftermath of the dismantling of apartheid. That gave hope but nearly a quarter of a century



Supporters reach and touch The Web Ellis Cup carried by South Africa's rugby captain Siya Kolisi (left) up on the team's arrival at the O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg on Tuesday. — AFP

later South Africa is still weighed down by the legacy of the apartheid system of racial segregation, and by some new

problems on top. South Africans in 2019 worry almost incessantly about poverty, unemployment, violent crime, corruption

and a struggling economy in their young democracy. But this was not a day for frowning in South Africa.

Not even when the people packed into the airport arrivals hall, and the balconies overhead, were made to wait nearly four hours to see Kolisi and the trophy.

As Kolisi emerged from the airplane and walked down a corridor with the cup, airport workers abandoned their stations and followed, singing, dancing and gyrating alongside him. In the arrivals hall, boys and girls were hoisted onto dad's shoulders for a better view, bed time on a school night was irrelevant. A huge South African flag hung from a balcony and down one wall. When Kolisi and the trophy finally came into view, the crowd — noticeably multiracial — erupted over and over.

"I think we won because we definitely wanted it a lot. I know they (England) also wanted it a lot but I must say the people outside here and the people inside here did help us a lot," Kolisi said. — AFP

Saina out, Sai and Kashyap advance

CHINA | OPEN

Fuzho (China), Nov. 6: There was no end to Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal's lackluster run of form as the Olympic bronze-medalist crashed out of the China Open here on Wednesday following a straight-game opening-round defeat to local favourite Cai Yan Yan.

The World No.9 Saina lost 9-21, 12-21 in the women's singles clash that lasted just 24 minutes to make an early exit from the \$700,000 tournament.

However, in men's singles, Parupalli Kashyap registered a comfortable straight-game victory over Thailand's Sitthikom Thammasin.

The Indian outsmarted his Thai opponent 21-14, 21-3 in 43 minutes. He will face seventh seed Victor Axelson of Denmark in the second round.

World Championships bronze medallist B. Sai Praneeth also made it to the second round beating

Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia 15-21, 21-12, 21-10 in a 52-minute hard-fought opening round battle. The World No.11 Indian will take on fourth seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark in the next round.

However, it was curtains for compatriot Sameer Verma as he lost 18-21, 18-21 against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu in an opening round contest that lasted 45 minutes.

The mixed doubles pairing of Pranav Jerry Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy also made a first-round exit. The duo went down 14-21, 14-21 to Wang Chi-Lin and Cheng Chi Ya of Chinese Taipei.

The men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B. Sumeeth Reddy also crashed out in the first round, losing 21-23, 19-21 to Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik. — PTI



Hyderabad suffer maximal damage

MOSES KONDETY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

It was so near yet so far as Hyderabad Football Club dominated most part of their Indian Super League match until a penalty kick in the 86th minute settled the score in favour of NorthEast United at the Gachibowli Stadium on Wednesday night.

Substitute Maximiliano Barreiro slotted the ball home from the spot after Shankar Sampingiraj was deemed to have handled the ball in the box by referee Om Prakash Thakur, much to the chagrin of the home side.

The visitors looked threatening early on as they made forays into the Hyderabad half only to be thwarted by an alert defence. NorthEast earned a corner in the second minute but wasted it as Nikhil Kadam's delivery landed in no man's territory before bouncing over the backline.

Action soon shifted to the other end with Hyderabad turning up in full force. Brazilian Marcelinho dodged a couple of defenders before unleashing a weakish shot with his right that brushed against the finger tips of goalkeeper Subhasish Roy Chowdhury before rolling across.

Marcelinho lined up another freekick in the 11th minute but his floater found no takers.

In the 20th minute, Marcelinho again floated in a cross from the right but

NorthEast defenders blocked out Gani Ahmed Nigam as he leapt to meet it.

Five minutes later, Hyderabad almost went ahead — Marko Stankovic's shot curled inches away from the NorthEast goalpost. Another chance went abegging in the 32nd minute when Nigam failed to tip the ball over an on-rushing NorthEast goalie after a fine feed from Shankar close to the goalmouth.

NorthEast sniffed a chance in the 36th minute but Uruguayan striker Martin Chaves shot wide. On the other hand, Hyderabad earned a couple of corners right at half-time but could not capitalise.

NorthEast came out flying after the break and ran right into the Hyderabad territory.

They surely would have gone one-up had it not been for goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh saving a strong shot from Redeem Tlang.

In the 66th minute Hyderabad's Rohit Kumar tried his luck with a long-ranger which goalie Subhasish got control of on the second attempt.

Four minutes later, Mohammed Yasir made a daunting run from the left, crossed the ball right in front of the NorthEast goal but none of the HFC players were around.

NorthEast had one more chance to go ahead, in the 78th minute but Tlang could not meet Rakesh Pradhan's cross right in front of the goal.

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