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DECCAN Chronicle
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 20 NOVEMBER 2024

WEATHER
Max: 29.2°C
Min: 15.8°C
RH: 45%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Max/Min temp. 29/16ºC

WORLD | 10
HK jails scholar Benny Tai, 44 others

SPORTS | 12
Australian pacers advised to go for Kohli's body

TABLOID
Actresses support Nayanthara, male stars silent

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Revanth challenges KCR for debate in Assembly

BRS, BJP unite to stall growth in TG: Revanth

PULI SHARATH KUMAR I DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 19

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao for evading accountability and BJP Telangana president and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy for parroting the line of the BRS.

"Instead of hiding in the farmhouse and letting two cheap leaders, Billa (K.T. Rama Rao) and Ranga (T. Harish Rao), talk nonsense every day, KCR should come to the Assembly and address people's issues directly," he said while speaking at a massive public rally, 'Indira Mahila Shakti Praja Palana Vijayotsavam', held at the Arts and Science College ground in Hanamkonda on Tuesday.

Revanth Reddy accused the BRS and BJP of plotting against Telangana's progress. "They are conspiring to obstruct developmental works initiated by the Congress government. But we will not back down. We are ready to send them to jail if needed," he warned.

Revanth Reddy reiterated his long-standing challenge to the BRS. "When I became TPCC chief in 2021, I declared that I would defeat BRS and KCR in the Assembly polls. I fulfilled my promise. I now declare that I will not let the sapling of KCR or BRS grow again in Telangana," he asserted, vowing to dismantle the BRS. The Chief Minister accused Kishan Reddy of acting in coordination with BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao. "Whenever KTR speaks against the Congress, Kishan Reddy parrots the same criticism the next day, as if there's an understanding between them," he remarked.

Revanth Reddy criticised Kishan Reddy for his remarks about the Congress' deference to AICC leader Sonia Gandhi.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy pays his respects to former prime minister Indira Gandhi at the Indira Mahila Shakti Vijayotsava Sabha as part of the 'Praja Palana — Praja Vijayotsavalu' celebrations in Warangal, on Tuesday. — *BY ARRANGEMENT*

■ Page 3: Sonia mother of TG's 4 cr people, says CM

HC spikes BRS' GO on state jobs for contract staff

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

In a landmark judgment, the Telangana High Court on Tuesday quashed Government Order (GO) 16, which was issued in 2016 to enable the state government to regularise contract employees. The High Court directed the state government to ensure that vacant government posts are filled through a lawful and transparent recruitment process, stating that contractual employees cannot be regularised as a means to fill these vacancies.

The order was hurriedly brought out by the BRS government a few months before the elections, and benefited many contract employees, many of them from the medical and education departments.

The court declared that the regularisation of contractual employees was unconstitutional and contrary to public policy. The High Court stressed that all future government recruitment must adhere to established procedures, including public notifications and compliance with reservation policies. It also warned against any attempts to circumvent these requirements.

A division bench comprising Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao struck down the executive orders issued for insertion of Section 10-A into the Telangana (Regulation of Appointments to Public Services and Rationalisation of Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994, as well as the government order (GO 16) issued on February 26, 2016, which had enabled the insertion of the provision.

● **THE HIGH** Court stressed that all future government recruitment must adhere to established procedures, including public notifications and compliance with reservation policies.

■ Page 2: HC faults contract employees regularisation

India, UK to restart trade talks in 2025

Modi holds bilateral meets with top leaders

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a string of bilateral meetings with Brazilian, French, Indonesian, Chile Presidents as well as British, Italian, Portuguese and Norwegian Prime Ministers on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.

Modi also participated in the concluding third session of the G20 Summit on "Sustainable Development and Energy Transition" where he "underlined the importance of accelerating efforts to ensure a cleaner, more sustainable future for all, including through mainstreaming 'Varanasi Principles on LiFE' and initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, One World-One Sun-One Grid and the Global Biofuel Alliance."

The discussions with his British counterpart Keir Starmer included a joint resolve to resume negotiations with Britain for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India also raising the "importance of addressing the issue of economic offenders from India in the UK". Modi also announced the establishment of two new Consulates General of India in the United Kingdom in Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Manchester. This was the first meeting of Modi with his British counterpart ever since the Labour government assumed office earlier this year after a sweeping electoral victory. Following the meeting, the British Prime Minister also announced that UK-India trade talks would resume in the New Year and added that "a new trade deal with India will support jobs and prosperity in the UK."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets his UK counterpart Keir Starmer ahead of their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Monday. — *PTI*

■ Page 9: India, Italy unveil new joint action plan

TG, AP form largest pool of students in US

LAXMI PRANATHI | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 19

Data from the US Consulate General in Hyderabad shows students from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana now account for more than half of all Indian students in the United States.

This revelation was made during International Education Week, based on the visas issued for Indian students last year. As high as 56 per cent of students from this country are Telugus pursuing higher education courses in the US institutions.

V'bad attack: Key accused surrenders

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 19

B. Suresh, BRS youth wing leader, wanted for the attack on Vikarabad collector Prateek Jain, surrendered before the Kodangal court on Tuesday, according to Vikarabad superintendent of police Koti Reddy. According to the SP, Suresh confessed that he had orchestrated the attack that occurred on November 11.

■ Full report on Page 5

Maha, J'khand polls: Stage set for voting today

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, RANCHI, NOV. 19

The stage is set for polling in 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra and for 38 in the second and last phase of Jharkhand elections on Wednesday. In Maharashtra, the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti alliance vying to retain power is pitched against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). In Jharkhand, the BJP-led coalition left no stone unturned to wrest power from the incumbent JMM- led alliance.

The election campaign witnessed top leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and many Union ministers crisscrossing in both states.

The BJP's use of slogans like "Batenge toh katenge" and "Ek hai toh safe hai" prompted the Opposition parties to accuse the saffron party of polarising voters along religious lines. The Congress to counter to the BJP's "Batenge to Katenge" used "Daroge to Maroge." In Jharkhand, the electoral battle is for 38 of the total 81 Assembly seats. This phase will decide the fate of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

BJP leader Vinod Tawde speaks to the media in Virar near Mumbai on Tuesday. — *PTI*

BJP's Tawde faces heat on 'cash for vote'

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

The Election Commission of India on Tuesday began investigations into 'cash for vote' allegations leveled by the Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) against BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde.

■ Full report on Page 9

Manipur: Kharge seeks Murmu's intervention

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, IMPHAL, NOV. 19

A meeting of MLAs of the ruling BJP-led NDA in Manipur adopted a resolution calling for a "mass operation" against the Kuki militants responsible for killing three women and three children in Jiribam district within seven days, a statement said.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge has written to President Droupadi Murmu over the deteriorating situation in Manipur and urged her immediate intervention to ensure that people of the state live peacefully in their homes with dignity. Kharge, in his two-page letter to the President, highlighted the "failure" of the Manipur government and the Centre in ensuring law and order and the safety of people in Manipur for the last 18 months.

He said the violence in Manipur has taken more than 300 human lives, including women, children and even babies. "I consider that it has become constitutionally imperative on the part of yourself as the President."

■ Page 9: Members ask Centre to reconsider AFSPA

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BMW X7 xDrive40d DPE 7 Seater	Unregistered	3,183	₹1,49,999
BMW X7 xDrive40i M Sport	Unregistered	568	₹1,49,999
BMW X5 xDrive30d M Sport	Unregistered	4,519	₹1,29,999
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10K ACRES IN | QUESTION Value of land estimated at over ₹40,000 cr

TG wants PSUs to return land

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Nearly 10,000 acres of prime land in Hyderabad, allotted by the state government to Central public sector indertakings (CPSUs) decades ago, remain unutilised, prompting the state government to push for the reclamation of these parcels.

The estimated market value of these land parcels is over ₹40,000 crore.

According to data compiled by the state revenue department, 11 Central PSUs collectively hold 8,948 acres, of which only 2,313 acres are being utilised.

This means 6,635 acres remain unused under eight operational PSUs, while three closed PSUs account for an additional 3,304 acres of unutilised land.

Prominent public sector indertakings with significant unutilised land include Midhani, DRDO, and BDL, which together have 1,312 acres lying vacant.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT'S DATA

● PSUs with unutilised land include: Midhani, DRDO and BDL, which together have 1,312 acres lying vacant.

Land Holdings	Unused (in acres)
● Ordnance Factory, Medak:	2,000
● BHEL, Lingampally:	2,125
● ECIL, Charlapalli:	930
● HAL, Balanagar:	214
● DRDO and DRDL, Chandrayangutta:	55

■ Page 7: TG to utilise unused lands to attract new firms

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Facial recognition to track Sectt attendance

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

TG has introduced facial recognition system to record the attendance of employees working at the State Secretariat. At present, employees are marking attendance in manual method by signing in attendance registers. There were complaints of employees resorting to irregularities in the manual method. To overcome this, it was decided to introduce advanced facial recognition system to record the attendance. CS A. Santhi Kumari issued orders to this effect on Tuesday. The CS directed employees and outsourcing staff to register for facial attendance from November 22.

High Court faults contract employees' regularisation

Bench noted appointments were made without following procedure

FROM PAGE 1

The judges held that insertion Section 10-A was ultra vires the Constitution and not in accordance with the principles of public service recruitment.

Despite invalidating insertion of Section 10-A, the Court refrained from terminating the services of 5,544 contractual employees whose appointments were regularised via GO Ms No. 38 on April 30, 2023.

The bench reasoned that these employees had served on a contractual basis since 2009, and dismissing them would be inequitable given their decade-long tenure.

The judgment followed a batch of pettions filed by unemployed youth, including postgraduates and qualified NET/SET candidates, who contended that the posts filled through regularisation should have been advertised for open recruitment.

They argued that GO 16 unfairly barred them from competing for government jobs and violated their right to equal opportunity.

The High court faulted the regularisation of contractual employees as a "one-time measure" by the previous BRS governmen deemed the policy adopted by then BRS state government in filling the posts with contract employees was an opaque exercise of power that violated established recruitment laws.

The bench noted that such appointments were made without following proper procedure like issuing advertisements, considering reservation rosters, and assessing eligibility, undermined fairness and meritocracy.

The High Court clarified as invalid the insertion of Section 10-A under Section 101 of the AP Reorganisation Act which governs modifications, amendments, or repeals of existing laws.

The High Court said that Section 10-A of 1994 Act ws a non-obstante clause and such overriding provision is only in relation to other provisions of the same Act and non-obstante clause cannot have an overriding effect on any other enactment.

THE COURT clarified as invalid the insertion of Section 10-A under Section 101 of the AP Reorganisation Act which governs modifications, amendments, or repeals of existing laws.

TAUCTA welcomes court's decision to strike down GO 16

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Dr B. Rajeshkhanna, general secretary, Telangana All Universities Contract Teachers Association (TAUCTA), welcomed the Telangana High Court's decision to strike down GO No. 16.

He expressed optimism about the path forward for university contract faculty members.

"This decision offers a real opportunity to finally regularise the 1,445 university contract faculty who have been left out of earlier efforts due to their institutions' autonomous status," he told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Dr Rajeshkhanna urged the government to move quickly, stressing the need for immediate action by newly appointed Vice Chancellors and governing bodies to address the situation.

Supriya Gopa, a healthcare worker on contract, said, "Our concern is that this decision might lead to additional delays in job opportunities for thousands of unemployed youth, especially as the government pushes to regularise certain groups first. While we respect long-serving contract employees, there must also be a fair focus on new job creation for those waiting."

N.V.S. Reddy

N.V.S. REDDY'S REMARKS SPARK GOVT BACKLASH

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

HMRL managing director N.V.S. Reddy portraying the city Metro Rail in poor light hasn't go down well with the top brass of state administration.

The government, according to sources, has actively been considering a replacement for N.V.S. Reddy, at the helm of affairs for over 15 years.

At a programme on Monday, Reddy had said the L&T, the Hyderabad Metro Rail concessionaire, had been suffering from huge losses of ₹1,300 crore per annum, which had accumulated to ₹6,000 crore in the last few years.

He said banks were shying away from giving loans for the expansion of the Metro Rail project.

The MD's observations came at a time when the Revanth Reddy-led state government was all set to launch the second and third phases of Metro Rail with an outlay of nearly ₹25,000 crore.

"This is shocking and completely unwarranted. We recently accorded administrative sanction for the project and have been trying hard to approach international funding agencies," said a senior state official. "As head of institution, N.V.S. Reddy cannot talk ill of the project and portray it as loss-making," the official added.

There were reports earlier that L&T was trying to exit from the project due to losses, part of which occurred due to delays post state bifurcation. Then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had stalled the project by insisting on certain changes in the alignment but finally okayed the previous one.

BURGLARS LOOT ₹10 CR GOLD FROM BANK

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 19

Burglars broke into the Raiparthy branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) and looted around ₹10 crore worth gold ornaments from lockers on Monday night in Warangal district.

According to the police, the burglars after disconnecting the power supply cut open the windows with gas cutters and entered the bank. The staff noticed the robbery on Tuesday morning. Officials immediately the police and bank senior officials. The police said that the bank officials were drawing up an estimate of the loss. Bank officials lodged a complaint based on which case was registered and police started an investigation by deploying special teams.

An ugly sight near City College

Locals have been dumping garbage into the Musi River, resulting in large heaps of waste getting stuck in the fence at City College. — *S. SURENDER REDDY*

FIVE-STOREY BUILDING TILTS, EVACUATED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Thirty residents were evacuated when their five-storey building tilting, at Siddiquenagar of Madhapur on Tuesday. Police, GHMC, fire and Disaster Response Force officials reached the spot to enable safe evacuation.

HYDRAA chief A.V. Ranganath said the foundation of the building could have been affected as a result of earth excavation work being carried out for a neighbouring building.

"We will be razing the structure in the night or Wednesday morning," Ranganath said. "We have evacuated the people living in the adjacent building."

He said action would be taken against those who caused damage to the building.

ALIENS TOLD TO PAY INTEREST TO FLAT PURCHASER

SABA ANJUM SHAIK I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

TGRERA ordered Aliens Developers Pvt. Ltd. to pay interest to Ganapathi P. Gorekar for delaying possession of his flat at the 'Aliens Space Station' in Tellapur.

Gorekar booked the flat in 2012, and the agreement in 2016, with the developer promising possession by December 2017. Despite paying over 95 per cent of cost, ₹63.75 lakh, the work remained incomplete.

Aliens Developers blamed the delays on the 2008 financial crisis, Telangana's bifurcation, and the pandemic.

TGRERA ordered the developer to pay 10.95 per cent annual interest from December 2017 until the property is handed over.

Bhatti vows no forced land acquisition

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday reiterated that the Congress government would not forcibly acquire land from farmers for development projects.

"The Congress government is not forcibly grabbing lands like the BRS regime did. Those who auctioned farmers' assigned land and profited from it cannot claim moral high ground," Bhatti said, likening the BRS's actions to "demons reciting the Vedas."

Addressing a gathering at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday during the birth anniversary celebrations of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, Bhatti accused the previous BRS government of seizing over 10,000 acres of assigned land around Hyderabad that were originally given to the poor by the past Congress governments.

Dy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, other leaders paid tributes to Indira Gandhi on Tuesday.— *BY ARRANGEMENT*

"The BRS leadership provoked innocent farmers in Lagcharla and attacked officials as part of a conspiracy for political gains," he alleged, adding that the Congress government would not repeat such actions.

He paid glowing tributes to Indira Gandhi, describing her as a visionary leader who transformed India through land reforms, the nationalisation of banks, and policies aimed at social equality. "Indira Gandhi's life was a testament to her dedication to national unity and integrity. She sacrificed her life for the stability of this country," he said.

Bhatti praised Indira Gandhi's contributions to foreign policy and her efforts to unite diverse communities across India. "The Congress government in Telangana is committed to following her path by working towards equality and empowering the poor," he added.

Bhatti highlighted the Congress government's initiatives, including the ongoing caste census, which he claimed would create a roadmap for equitable development. "We passed a resolution in the Legislative Assembly to begin a scientific and comprehensive caste census. This survey will enable the government to provide equal opportunities and make Telangana a role model for the country," he said.

Emphasising the government's focus on women, he announced various schemes inspired by Indira Gandhi's vision. "We launched a free bus scheme for women within an hour of assuming office, paying ₹400 crore monthly to the RTC for women's transportation costs. We are also providing ₹20,000 crore in interest-free loans annually to empower women and make them entrepreneurs," Bhatti said.

Bhatti reiterated the Congress government's resolve to bring inclusive growth and uphold the ideals of Indira Gandhi. "The people's government in Telangana will continue to respect women as pillars of society and provide equal opportunities for all. We are determined to make this state a beacon of progress and unity," he stated.

FEE | CRISIS **Some autonomous colleges, few others decided to continue academic schedules**

Degree colleges strike over arrears payment

RACHEL DAMMALA I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The indefinite strike launched by the Telangana State Private Degree and PG Colleges Management Association over delayed fee reimbursement arrears unfolded with considerable confusion on Tuesday.

While several institutions shut their doors in solidarity with the protest, others remained operational, leaving students grappling with a lack of clarity regarding their classes and semester examinations.

MANAGEMENT associations said October's government assurances remain unfulfilled, leaving colleges with unpaid salaries, rising utility bills, and pressing rental due, straining financial stability.

The strike was called to highlight the pending fee reimbursement arrears spanning the last two academic years, a situation the association claims has severely strained their financial stability.

"Despite persistent efforts to engage with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and other concerned officials, there has been no concrete response. Higher education is being sidelined," said association president Dr B. Suryanarayana Reddy.

General secretary Yada Ramakrishna expressed frustration over the government's unfulfilled assurances.

The impact on students was immediate and chaotic. "When I reached my college, the gates were shut with no information on whether classes would be held or exams would continue," said Sai Kiran Rao, a final-year student. "Everyone was calling around trying to get updates, but there was no clarity. For those of us with attendance issues, this added more stress."

For some students, the confusion was worsened by travel difficulties.

"I had an important practical exam today and travelled a long distance to attend it," said Reshma Shaik, a postgraduate student.

"When I arrived, I was told the exam had been postponed. It's frustrating, especially when exam schedules are already tight. Usually we're notified in advance, but it appeared as if the college itself had no clarity on whether or not to declare the bandh until 9.30 am," she told *DC*. Not all institutions adhered strictly to the bandh call. Autonomous colleges and a few others chose to continue their academic schedule.

"We opted to hold classes as planned so that students do not lose out on their preparation for semester exams," a college representative explained.

"We support the cause and the need for financial aid, but stopping education entirely isn't a solution. We are considering alternative methods of expressing our protest."

While some institutions moved forward with their semester exam schedule, others chose to pause all activities.

The management associations pointed out that a previous strike in October ended with assurances from the government, which remain unfulfilled. The ever-increasing arrears have left colleges with unpaid staff salaries, accumulating utility bills, and pressing rental dues.

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M/S. INDUSIND bank ltd is the selling repossession vehicles, Maruti new Swiftvxi, reg: TS10FE9292, 2023 model, Maruti Baleno P MT Zeta reg: TS07HL6728, 2020 model, Tata Tiago xz reg: TS07GL0203, 2017 model, contact: vijay- 8099085204 (HYMM/2425/C04244)

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CHANGE OF NAME

I SUNIL Kumar Ramani S/o Jayalaxmi Ramani R/o F-405 May Flower Park Apartments Mallapur Uppal K V Rangareddy Telangana- 500076 Name of my mother has been incorrectly written as Jaya Ramani in my passport no-J7195540. The actual name of my mother is Jayalaxmi Ramani. (C/2425/C00182)

LOST

I, RAVI Kumar Chava, S/o Subba Rao Chava R/o: 474A, Prajay homes, near Ratnalayam temple, Shamirpet mandal, Majidpur, Adilabad(Po), Rangareddy(dist), Telangana 500078. Lost my original passport bearing no: S6444722 issued at Hyderabad on 27/09/2018. While shifting from Ameerpet to Prajay homes. If anybody find call: 9347425002 (HYMM/2425/C04246)

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Asar: 4.04 pm
Maghrib: 5.49 pm
Isha: 6.56 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 06.25 AM
SUNSET TODAY 05.39 PM
MOONRISE 10.02 PM
MOONSET 10.44 AM

COUNTER POINT

Whom should we vote for... chacha, bhatija, bhabhi, bahu or beti?

IN BRIEF

Harish raps CM's criticism on KCR

Hyderabad: The BRS on Tuesday hit out at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for his comments in Warangal on the party and its president K. Chandrashekar Rao, with senior leader T Harish Rao saying "Revanth Reddy's behaviour reflects the adage, 'a weak man boasts, and an incapable man abuses'. In eleven months of governance, he has delivered nothing but insults, with no meaningful contributions to show." Harish Rao said Revanth Reddy's comments were "baseless and reckless."

ETALA ACCEPTS CM'S POLL VOWS DEBATE CHALLENGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Malkajgiri BJP MP Etala Rajendar accepted the challenge of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for a debate on all his "420-odd poll promises" and Six Guarantees and asked him to finalise the venue and time.

The BJP MP accused the CM of uttering lies during his election campaign in Maharashtra. "For the stature of Revanth Reddy, Narendra Modi doesn't need to debate him. BJP leaders in Telangana are ready to debate with him," he said. He added the Congress had promised to cancel Pharma City and assured that it would hand over the land to the farmers. But, with an eye on the real estate business, the they now planned to continue with the Pharma City and planned to acquire another 16,000 acres in the name of Fourth City.

KISHAN WELCOMES TTD DECISION TO POST ONLY HINDUS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

There is no place for religion-based reservations in the Constitution. The issue of religion-based reservation is subjudice. It is highly improper on the part of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to claim during the Maharashtra election campaign that they would review the verdict of Bombay High Court and implement religion-based reservations if elected to power, said Telangana BJP chief and Union minister G. Kishan Reddy.

Talking to newspersons on Tuesday, he alleged that the Congress leaders had adopted vote-bank politics in the poll-bound state. But, the voters of Maharashtra would reject them like they did in Haryana.

Will make Warangal 2nd major city in TG: Revanth

CM launches infra, welfare projects worth ₹4,848.47 cr in Warangal

PULI SHARATH KUMAR I DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 19

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said that the Congress government was focussed on the development of North Telangana region and unveiled his vision to transform Warangal into the second major city in Telangana, following Hyderabad.

As part of the Congress government's commitment, Revanth Reddy launched a series of infrastructure and welfare projects worth ₹4,848.47 crore in Warangal district. These initiatives were unveiled during the 'Praja Palana Vijayostsavalu' at Arts College in Hanamkonda, marking the first anniversary of the Congress government in the state.

Highlighting the lack of sufficient airports compared to neighboring states which have four to five, Revanth Reddy announced plans to establish four airports, including at Warangal, Kothagudem and Ramagundam. "The Congress government is ready to enhance regional connectivity, starting with a ₹205 crore allocation for the Mamnoor airport in Warangal," he said.

Revanth Reddy emphasised Warangal's historical and cultural significance, referring to its rich heritage from the Kakatiya dynasty. "Warangal's lakes and tanks are treasures of the Kakatiya kings. Developing this city on all fronts is my top priority, and I will not rest until this is achieved," he asserted.

The government's commitment to Warangal is underscored by its ₹6,000 crore allocation for the city's development. "If Warangal flourishes, half of Telangana will be developed," the CM said, pledging to work tirelessly until the historical city matches Hyderabad in prominence and infrastructure.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy interacts with people at a public meeting in Warangal on Tuesday. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka was also present. — *DC*

Sonia mother of TG's 4 cr people

FROM PAGE 1

Referring to Kishan Reddy's criticism that Revanth Reddy was "Sonia's slave", the CM said: "Sonia Gandhi is the mother of Telangana's 4 crore people. Touching her feet and seeking blessings is not servitude; it's respect."

He accused Kishan Reddy of betraying Telangana by aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who once belittled the passage of the statehood legislation in Parliament. "Without Sonia Gandhi, the six-decade long dream of achieving statehood for Telangana would not have been fulfilled. Modi insulted and betrayed the people of Telangana with his statement in Parliament that the Telangana Bill was passed in an improper manner by closing doors and switching off lights. Kishan Reddy should be ashamed of doing *gulamgiri* to Modi who insulted Telangana. He should wash the feet of Sonia Gandhi and sprinkle water on his head to get rid of at least some of his sins," he said, referring to the BJP state president.

Revanth Reddy said Kishan Reddy had no moral right to stay in Telangana and he should pack his bags and leave for Gujarat. "Kishan Reddy boasts Modi cleansed the Sabarmati river in Gujarat. Why is he obstructing the cleaning of the Musi river here? Instead of sleeping near the Musi river, he should be thankful to the people of Secunderabad who made him MP, and not Modi," Revanth Reddy said.

He highlighted the Congress government's achievements in its 10-month rule, including creating 50,000 government jobs, waiving ₹18,000 crore in farm loans for 22 lakh farmers, and facilitating the cultivation of a record 66 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.

"Under Congress, women finally feel liberated after 10 years of BRS misrule," he added.

Drawing inspiration from former prime minister Indira Gandhi, Revanth Reddy launched an initiative to make one crore women crorepatis by supporting women self help groups (SHGs) with interest-free loans. The government plans to promote women-led businesses on par with major corporate houses like Tata and Birla.

Revanth Reddy criticised the previous BRS government for its failure to complete long-pending projects, including the Kaloji Kalakshetram. "The Congress government has shown determination and delivered on projects that the opposition left incomplete. We will expose conspiracies against development and hold detractors accountable," he warned.

CM backs prevention against thalassaemia

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Tuesday pledged his commitment to support measures aimed at preventing thalassaemia, during a meeting with the Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS) president Chandrakant Agarwal and society members. The delegation stressed the need for a government order (GO) to establish a robust prevention framework for thalassaemia, which remains a pressing health issue.

Recounting the recent progress of TSCS's Thalassaemia Prevention Project — currently operational in three districts — the society pressed upon the importance of scaling preventive measures statewide. The Chief Minister, who recalled a recent visit to the society, listened to their appeal with interest and expressed determination to prioritise the cause.

Advertorial

First time Desflurane Generic, after 15 years, launched in India by Aculife Healthcare Pvt Ltd

Aculife Healthcare Private Limited, has launched Desflurane, very important product among the gaseous anaesthesia portfolio in India. Desflurane is very safe and critical for certain surgeries says Guhaprasad, CEO of Aculife Healthcare Private Limited. In elderly patient Desflurane offers an advantage in terms of Faster & Predictable & Rapid recovery in Patients, post-surgery, thereby Improving Efficient Post-Anaesthesia Care. The launch of this product by Aculife Healthcare Private Limited will ensure easy availability and affordability to Indian patients.

Prof. Dr. Mukul Chandra Kapoor (Chief Consultant, Professor & Head) Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Faridabad says Desflurane is an excellent volatile anaesthetic agent and comes closest to the definition of an ideal anaesthetics agent. Its physico-chemical properties ensure that it does not accumulate in the body. It is sparingly soluble in body tissues, especially lipids, and thus is not stored in the body. This property ensures that its uptake stops after starting the agent, and the minimal anaesthetic concentration is achieved soon after we start administering it.

Dr. Yogen Bhatt – Consultant Anaesthesiologist Ex-President of ISA (Indian Society of Anaesthesia) endorses Desflurane is a wonder drug, now available to us freely. Due to its precision of control of level of anaesthesia required by the patient, Desflurane provides great stability of Hemo-dynamics, being short acting & totally eliminated by lungs only.

Dr. Parna Thakkar- MD, DNB, DA, FCPS, FICM (Critical Care) CCEPC (Palliative Care) Senior Consultant – Chief Neuro-anaesthesia Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital Mumbai, endorses Desflurane as the inhalation agent with the most rapid onset & offset of action which makes it the most reliable & predictable agent in case of long duration surgeries.

Huge turnout at Mahila Shakti fete

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 19

The Indira Mahila Shakti Vijayotsavam, organised by the Congress, was celebrated on a grand scale at the Arts and Science College ground in Hanamkonda on Tuesday.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Kaloji Kalakshetram constructed at a cost of ₹95 crore in the memory of the people's poet Kaloji Narayana Rao at Hygreevachary ground in Balasamudram. Then the CM inspected the photo gallery and a short film on Kaloji Narayana Rao. The CM then inspected various stalls established by the members of self-help groups.

Later, the CM inaugurated various development works along with laying the foundation stone for the construction of 22 Indira Mahila Shakti buildings across the state through virtual mode. The CM along with other ministers paid floral tribute to former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy inspects a stall along with minister Konda Surekha at the Mahila Shakti Mela on Tuesday.

A large number of people, especially women from across the state turned out for the celebration. The meeting sent out a strong message to various sections of people that the Congress party is ready to fulfil all its promises.

The party hired 900 RTC buses for ferrying women to the meeting venue from various corners of the united Warangal district. At least 118 officials supervised the arrangements. LED screens were arranged at important locations of the city.

Officials of the health department set up seven temporary medical camps and six first aid centres along with deploying 75 health officials on duty including 10 specialist doctors and five ambulances to provide medical help.

SHGs THANK CM FOR WOMEN INITIATIVES

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 19

Authorities on Tuesday organised a Mahila Shakti Mela of women self-help groups (WSHGs) featuring handicrafts stalls on the Arts and Science College ground to mark the completion of one year of Congress government rule.

K. Sridevi, an SHG member from Karimnagar, who has a stall of handloom sarees, thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for providing her an opportunity to establish the stall.

District in-charge minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accompanied by minister Konda Surekha, MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy and K.R. Nagaraju went around the stalls.

PILOT | PROJECT **Nearly 136 mn tonnes of silt accumulated**

Kadam reservoir to be desilted

BALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The irrigation department will take up a pilot project of desilting reservoirs in the state starting with the Kaddam reservoir in Nirmal district and work is expected to begin next February.

The government on Tuesday issued orders approving the desilting of reservoirs in the state and adopting a revenue generation model by selling the retrieved sand and clay. The government said it has been decided to adopt the National Sediment Management Guidelines issued by the Union ministry of Jal Shakti.

Kaddam, picked for the pilot project, is believed to have lost, over the decades, around 40 per cent of its water holding capacity of 7.6 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet) down to around 4.8 tmc ft. Irrigation department officials estimate that nearly 136 million tonnes of silt has accumulated at the reservoir.

While the composition of the silt at reservoirs can vary depending on the soil types of the catchment of the river on which a dam is built, at Kaddam, officials believe that some 40 per cent of the silt could be sand that can be used in the construction industry, while the rest is mostly clay that can be used to supplement soil nutrition in agricultural fields.

"We hope the work can begin in February and be completed by May in the coming year," a senior irrigation department official said.

While most reservoirs in the state too have experienced silting over the decades, the worst hit, according to a report by the Central Water Commission, is Nizamsagar, which lost 60 per cent of its holding capacity, while Nagarjunasagar reservoir's capacity went down by 23 per cent.

https://www.snapfrom.com https://www.americadollars.com/

IN BRIEF

Hyd student killed in US mishap

Hyderabad: A 21-year-old MS student from Hyderabad died in a road mishap in the US, according to reports received late on Tuesday. The victim's father Ram Ashish Yadav said Sandeep Kumar Yadav, his younger son, had gone to Ohio, the USA, two years ago for higher studies. On November 17, Sandeep Kumar was driving a car and died in a head-on collision with a car coming from the opposite direction.

Medicines claiming false cure seized

Hyderabad: The Drugs Control Administration (DCA) Hayatnagar unit on Tuesday seized stocks of an Ayurvedic medicine which was being peddled as a cure for rheumatism, at a medical store in Vanasthalipuram. Making the claim is prohibited under Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, officials said. The tablets were found to be manufactured by Modgad Ayurved Pharmacy at Koheda village.

Three guards held on theft charges

Hyderabd: The Jubilee Hills police arrested three security guards for a theft at a house in Road No. 54, Jubilee Hills, and a stolen property receiver and recovered gold and diamond ornaments worth ₹10 lakh and ₹5.97 lakh in net cash from them. The security guards were identified as Revu Suresh, Touti Subba Rao and Aviti Palla Rao, and the receiver as Yogesh Shanthilal Jain, road number 54. Jubilee Hills ACP P. Venkatagiri said the accused were absconding since July 18 this year.

PROVISION OF GRID CONNECTED ROOF TOP SOLAR POWER PLANTS

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/24 of 2024-25; dated: 13-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/21; **Name of work:** Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Service buildings over Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹2,09,23,049.50; Earnest Money: ₹2,54,600.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024. **SN.2; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/22; **Name of work:** Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Residential building over Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹14,24,85,280.00; Earnest Money: ₹8,62,400.00; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024. **SN.3; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/23; **Name of work:** Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Station buildings over Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹17,30,18,848.02; Earnest Money: ₹10,15,100.00; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024.The complete information with the tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 on website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/G&OP, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

PROVISION OF ROOF TOP SOLAR PLANTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNDER LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/25 of 2024-25; dated: 14-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/24; **Name of work:** At Guwahati: Provision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, LC gates in Guwahati area. Tender Value: ₹9,37,42,306/-; Earnest Money: ₹6,18,700/-. **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. **SN.2; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/25; **Name of work:** At New Guwahati: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various staff quarters and LC gates in New Guwahati area. Tender Value: ₹10,13,22,757.20; Earnest Money: ₹6,56,600.00; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. **SN.3; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/26; **Name of work:** Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in New Guwahati and Narangi area. Tender Value: ₹13,11,60,562/-; Earnest Money: ₹8,05,800/-; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. **SN.4; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/27; **Name of work:** Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, Railway Station, parking area etc. in Amingaon area. Tender Value: ₹7,71,68,959/-; Earnest Money: ₹5,35,900/-; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. **SN.5; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/28; **Name of work:** At Pandu: Provision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of Various Staff quarters in Pandu area. Tender Value: ₹10,69,88,865/-; Earnest Money: ₹6,85,000/-; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. **SN.6; Tender No:** EL/LM/24-25/29; **Name of work:** At Pandu: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in Pandu area. Tender Value: ₹14,18,48,756/-; Earnest Money: ₹8,59,300/-; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 on website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

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Fraudsters swindle senior citizen of ₹4.7L in OTP scam

Scammers sent APK files to victim, she clicked on it, money debited

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Cyberfraudsters duped a senior citizen of ₹4.7 lakh in a one-time password (OTP) scam, cheated by someone whom she believed to be an e-commerce customer helpline executive. This was a repeat of a recent incident where another pensioner had tried to access the helpline of a pharmacy app, and landed up with a fraudster who cheated him of ₹4 lakh.

In the latest complaint, a 67-year-old victim lodged a complaint at the city cybercrime unit (CCU) on Tuesday after she noticed ₹4.7 lakh transferred from her account after she attempted to pay for a parcel that she had ordered from the e-commerce portal. The victim received a call from a person who claimed to be a delivery agent for the e-commerce portal and had come to deliver her order. However, she found it was not the article that she had ordered.

● THE VICTIM noticed ₹4.7 lakh transferred from her account after she attempted to pay for a parcel that she had ordered from the e-commerce portal.

The victim then called the e-commerce portal helpline. A person who spoke Hindi received her call and asked her to transfer ₹10 as the fee to raise a complaint, a CCU official said, citing from the complaint. Trusting him, she transferred ₹10 through a payment app. The fraudster sent an APK file to her WhatsApp number in the name of customer care and asked her to click it, the officer said. The moment the victim clicked on that file, she got a message that ₹4.7 lakh was debited from her account. "We have received the victim's complaint and have informed the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP). The investigation is in progress," said the investigation officer.

This was similar to the scam that took place on November 10. A retired employee from Ramanthapur was attempting to update his address on a medicine delivery app. He searched for the app's customer care on a search engine, and called a number that came up. An executive asked him to pay ₹2 to update his address. The pensioner did so without hesitation.

He then saw money getting debited from his account and eventually ended up poorer by ₹4 lakh.

Impersonator gyps employee of ₹1.7L

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

A 30-year-old woman from Hyderabad lost ₹1.7 lakh to a scamster who claimed that he was her boss, and was in need of money. The victim was an employee with a private company, police said. Her ordeal began with a WhatsApp message from what looked like her boss's number in which he claimed that he was in need of money.

The message was sent from a different series of mobile number but after the scamster claimed he was the boss, the victim as convinced. He claimed he was need of money and that his mobile payment app was not working. He provided a different number and asked her to transfer the amount for an urgent business transaction. He promised to repay the next morning. The victim sent a total of ₹1.7 lakh.

● HER ORDEAL began with a WhatsApp message. It looked like her boss's number.

She discovered the scam when her boss informed her he had not sent any message nor made any request for money. After investigating, it was revealed that the fraudster had gained access to her boss's WhatsApp account, and used it to impersonate him. Cases are filed for impersonation and cheating.

₹243 cr Blossoms Oils assets attached

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Hyderabad, said it had attached immovable properties with a book value of ₹243 crore belonging to Sarvade Vinod Kumar and Jan Shakti Oil Products, represented by M. Venkata Nagendra, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Jan Shakti Oil Products is a sister company of Blossoms Oils & Fats, which allegedly violated money laundering norms in 2002.

According to a statement issued by the ED, Blossoms Oils and Fats, and its directors have defrauded Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank by availing loans on the basis of forged documents. They diverted the loan proceeds for personal use through their associate group companies, causing ₹266.74-crore loss to the two banks.

● BLOSSOMS OILS and Fats, and its directors have defrauded Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank by availing loans on the basis of forged documents.

The CBI filed a chargesheet on February 19, 2019 in the court of special sessions judge for CBI cases in Hyderabad. The ED initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI of Bengaluru, against Blossoms Oils & Fats Ltd and others.

The front portion of the bus was badly damaged after hitting a tree at Kundanpally near Keesara on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday morning. — *R. PAVAN*

'Dizzy' school bus driver puts 30 kids at risk

PRIYA RATHNAM I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Thirty students travelling in a school bus had a narrow escape after the driver almost fainted while at the wheel. The bus dashed against a tree after the driver lost control over the vehicle.

The incident occurred at Kundanpally near Keesara on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday morning. The Keesara police charged the driver with rash and negligent driving. According to sub-inspector Srinivas Reddy, Y. Raju, a driver for Divine Grace International School's bus, picked up students from in and around Keesara in the morning. While he was heading towards the school, he felt dizzy. Only the driver suffered minor injuries after he hit the steering wheel, and the students did not suffer any injuries.

The police checked if the driver was holding a licence and was drunk. His breathalyser test was negative.

The police questioned the driver, who had been working with the school for five years. He confessed that he felt dizzy and lost control over the vehicle. He was later admitted to a nearby hospital and is yet to be discharged. The accused Raju, will be served notices after he is discharged, police said. A suo motu case has been filed by the police for rash or negligent action that endangers human life or personal safety.

The SI said, if a case was registered, RTO will be approached to inspect the vehicle fitness and if the driver is also in condition to drve a school bus.

Warehouse catches fire, goods reduced to ashes

SYED OMAR FAROOQ I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

A fire broke out at a plastic materials warehouse in Malakpetgunj, at about 4.30 am on Tuesday. There were no casualties. Police and fire officials stated that plastic raw material, containers for tea and soft drinks, waste paper and around 13 shutters were gutted at the warehouse belonging to Prime Enterprises.

"The warehouse is located on the interior side of the Gunj (market). There was thick dark smoke and the intense heat generated from the burning plastic material melted the shutters," S. Anji Reddy, station fire officer (SFO) of Malakpet told *Deccan Chronicle*.

"We dispatched three fire brigades with 30 firefighters. As the lane was narrow and the warehouse had tons of debris, it took us five hours to extinguish the fire and take control of the situation, Anji Reddy explained.

Three fire brigades with 30 firefighters were pressed into service to douse the flames. — *DC*

● POLICE AND fire officials stated that plastic raw material, containers for tea and soft drinks, waste paper and around 13 shutters were gutted.

"Our teams, with the help of local police, arranged an earth-mover to clear the debris." Malakpet police registered a fire accident case and are waiting for the reports from the fire officials to establish the cause of the fire.

During the primary investigation, the police suspected a short circuit might have caused the fire. Police and GHMC officials are checking the relevant papers of Prime Enterprises from its managing director G. Rajesh, sources disclosed.

PLAINT AGAINST FOUR MEDICOS FOR RAGGING JUNIOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
NALGONDA, NOV. 19

Nalgonda Town-I police on Monday filed cases against four students of the Nalgonda Government Medical College for ragging a junior student.

Deputy superintendent of police Shivaram Reddy said that a case was filed against four students under Section 339 of the Anti-Ragging Act following a complaint from vice principal Dr Ramachandru. The four had physically attacked the junior student. Dr Shivram Reddy said that stringent action would be taken against the four students. An anti-ragging awareness programme would be conducted in the medical college, he added. He made it clear that zero tolerance would be maintained on ragging in colleges. He asked the junior students to inform police or dial 100, if seniors ragged them in the college.

According to sources, the junior student belonged to Kerala while the seniors who ragged him also belonged to the same state.

The junior sought help from other seniors from Kerala who reprimanded the perpetrators. But the four accused got angry and physically attacked the junior three days back. The four seniors were already suspended from the college by the principal.

Girl, 4, running to greet mom, collapses, dies

P. SRINIVAS I DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 19

A four-year old girl collapsed and died even as she was running to welcome her mother, who was coming home after attending the TG Public Commission Group-III examination on Sunday. Kurra Lavanya left his daughter Praharshika at her grandparent's home at 8 am and went to attend the Group-III examination. When she returned home at 3 pm, seeing her, Praharshika got emotional and ran towards her mother.

● BEFORE REACHING her mom, the girl collapsed, complained of pain

Lavanya opened her arms to welcome her daughter for a hug. Before reaching her mom, Praharshika collapsed and complained of pain in the chest. The girl then became unconscious. Her relatives shifted her to hospital at Khammam where doctors declared her brought dead.

BIKER DUO HIT TRAFFIC COP, FLEE WITH CAMERA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

A duo on a two-wheeler assaulted a traffic constable when he tried to stop them in Vithalwadi, Narayanguda, and fled with his body-worn camera, on Sunday. News of the incident became public on Tuesday. The duo was believed to be drunk.

Police said that when the constable attempted to stop the duo, the pillion-rider snatched the camera and the rider drove vanished into the narrow lanes of Vittalwadi towards Bash eerbagh.

Police were attempting to trace the vehicle through its registration number.

MAN HELD FOR KIDNAP AND RAPE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Uppal police arrested a private employee for allegedly kidnapping a 17-year-old minor girl and tricking her into marriage. The victim got acquainted with Gayyala Mohan Krishna, 23, who works in a private pharmaceutical distribution company in the packing section. The duo eventually got into a relationship. On November 14, Krishna allegedly tricked the victim with false promises, took her to a temple in Jangaon and 'married' her. He then took her to his native place and stayed in a hotel for a few days. After Krishna's father's intervention and the victim's repeated requests, Mohan dropped her at her home and fled away.

MAN VS | WILD Forest dept's silence makes people think tigers are around

Fake clips bigger menace than tigers

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS I DC
UTNOOR (ADILABAD), NOV. 19

Fake videos and photographs of tigers and their killing of cattle, posted on social media, are causing more fear than the tigers themselves in Adilabad district. The fake videos have disrupted the movement of villages in areas where no tigers are present.

Mesram Tirupati of Narnoor said viral videos of tigers of other states circulated on social media panicked people. Forest officials advise farmers not to venture into cotton fields for a few days till the tiger moving in the area leaves the place. With the forest department remaining silent on these videos, many people assume they are genuine.

A tiger conservationist of Hyderabad, who did not want to be identified, said it was shocking to see a large number of tiger videos circulating on social media.

He said it was falsely claimed that these videos were that of the erstwhile Adilabad district but after check, it was found that those were that of Maharashtra and Bandhavghar tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.

A video in which a tiger was seen crossing the road went viral on social media and it was falsely claimed that it was at Laltekdi in Utnoor on November 17.

The same day, Adilabad DFO Prashanth Bajirao Patil visited a forest area on the outskirts of Jamada mandal in Narnoor mandal to verify the movement of a tiger.

The question remained how the same tiger can be seen at two separate places at the same time.

Forest officials show the pugmarks only, but not the pictures of the said tigers.

Questions are asked as to why the tigers are not recorded on trap cameras when they feed on the cattle.

A section of people said those who support tiger conservation and relocation of villages from the core areas circulate those fake videos.

Forest staff said a six-year-old tiger named Johnny had entered Boath forests a few days ago through Kinwat from the Thippeshwar tiger teserve.

It crossed Mahbub ghats and entered Pembi forests. The same tiger killed oxen, bullocks and cows during its journey to Narnoor mandal.

SHRADDHANJALI
Grandma you are always in our hearts

Smt. GORENKA SUJANA MALLIKA
Expired on 11-11-2024
Inserted by: Grandson:
Bandari Sree Vamsh & Family
Call: 9573002715.
(S/2425/D00774)

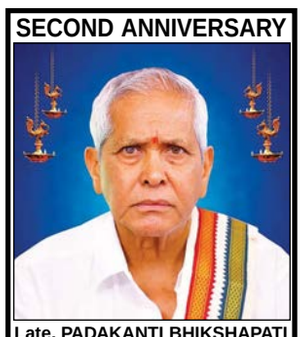
1st YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CHAVAKULA VENKATESWARLU GARU
DOB: 15-06-1963 DOD: 02-12-2023
"We miss you deeply and love you dearly"
Your loving memories remain with us forever. We pray to god to give enough soul rest in peace. Karthika Bhahula Panchami thidhi Wednesday 20-11-2024.
47 MIG H at Residency back side of Sri Ganesh Temple, Vijaya nagar Colony, Hyderabad.
Inserted by: **Chavakula Sathyavathi Garu, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters, Son-in-law and Family members.**
Cell: 9989131039
(S/2425/D00776)

SWARGWAS

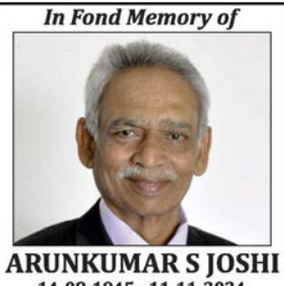
Smt. GORENKA SUJANA MALLIKA
Expired on: 11-11-2024
It's been 10th day since you disappeared from our sight and not from our memories, left from our touch, but not from our hearts.
Inserted by- Grandson: **S. Sriyan**
Granddaughter: **S. Mukthi**
All Family Members.
Cell: 9885533449.
(S/2425/D00773)

SECOND ANNIVERSARY



Late. PADAKANTI BHIKSHAPATI
Retd.E.O. (PR&RD) Ghatkesar
DOB: 22.05.1945 DOD: 15.11.2022
"Though you left us your memories remain in our hearts forever".
Inserted by: Wife: **P. Manemma and Family Members.**

In Fond Memory of

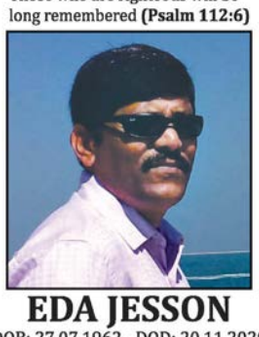


ARUNKUMAR S JOSHI
14-08-1945 - 11-11-2024
Dear Arun you will always be in our heart.
Classmates of XII (B) 1961 Batch of Vivek Vardhini High School, Hyderabad.
Contact: 9885335447

10th DAY CEREMONY
My beloved wife

Smt. GORENKA SUJANA MALLIKA
W/o. Gorenka Raghunandan
Has passed away on 11-11-2024 and 10th day is on 20-11-2024 at our residence, H.No: 16-1-30/A/8, Sujana Nilayam, Lokayukta Colony, Saidabad, Hyderabad- 500059.
Husband: **Gorenka Raghunandan & Families and Friends.**
From all near and dear.
Ph: 9848406557, 9848692918.
(S/2425/D00772)

4th Death Anniversary
Those who are righteous will be long remembered **(Psalm 112:6)**



EDA JESSON
DOB: 27.07.1962 - DOD: 20.11.2020
Inserted by:
FAMILY MEMBERS

18th ANNIVERSARY

DOB: 29-10-1981 DOD: 20-11-2006
Late Smt. UMA GUPTA
Your memories will remain in our hearts forever
Inserted by : Father: B. Rajaiah, Mother: B. Anjamma
Brothers: B. Shyam Kumar Gupta, B. Kashinath Gupta
Sisters-in-law: B. Shailaja, B. Swapna
Daughters-in-law: B. Anjali, B. Uma, B. Akhila
Son-in-law : B. Adhithya Pawan
Plot No.4, 153/A, Uma Gupta Nilayam, Balamrai, Near Paradise, Secunderabad.
Ph:9390322648, 9347204005,7416526948

SHRADDHANJALI
In Loving memory of

Smt. GORENKA SUJANA MALLIKA
Expired on 11-11-2024
Nani you are not among with us, your memories are always alive in our hearts, **Om Shanthi**.
Inserted by - Grandson: **Gorenka Nitish Anand & Families and Friends.**
Cell: 9948033454.
(S/2425/D00775)

https://www.snapfrom.com https://www.americadollars.com/

Fake GHMC officials try to raze badminton court

Residents demand action against suspected land grab bid

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

A group of people posing as a GHMC demolition squad demolished a wall of a GHMC badminton court and broke the CCTV camera at Street No. 9, Ravindranagar in Habsiguda on Saturday night, in what is believed to be a land grab attempt.

The residents, members of Ravindranagar Colony Welfare Association, demanded an order copy and identity cards from the demolition squad, but they refused to provide any. When Keerthan, association general secretary, the squad left the place.

The colony, which houses around 500 houses, was developed in late 1990s as per the norms of the erstwhile Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (Huda).

The common area, which was left out as per norms, was initially developed into a park and in 2020 as a shuttle badminton court, said Prof. Uma Maheshwar Reddy, a resident of the colony.

The GHMC badminton court at Ravindranagar in Habsiguda, which was attacked by miscreants posing asGHMC demolition squad on Saturday night. The wall of the court was demolished. — *DC*

Anugu Narasimha Reddy, the president of the association, suspected the involvement of the residents of Sri Hari Nivas Apartments in the illegal demolition attempt. "They wanted to demolish the wall and encroach the ground."

G. Krishna Mohan Reddy who is the association's treasurer, "The Sri Hari Nivas Apartment owners are denying any role. We have lodged a complaint with the Osmania University police station house officer, municipal corporator and the GHMC zonal commissioner."

According to S . Madhusudhan Reddy, another resident, "GHMC spent around ₹14 lakh, just before the Assembly election.

From 5.30 am onwards, residents take active part in fitness activities. Officials should hunt the culprits and punish them."

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*. Osmania University police SHO N. Rajender said, "During our primary investigation, the residents accused Sri Hari Nivas Apartment owners of trying to remove the fence of this park, so that the ground can be used by them. We are also trying to find out the identity of those who came with JCB and other machinery. As the investigation is still on, we cannot come to any conclusion."

BRS files plaint with ED against CM's kin

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The BRS on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's son-in-law Goluguri Satyanarayana, alleging the possibility of financial fraud and recalling how the agency had previously investigated some of Satyanarayana's relatives.

Manne Krishank of the BRS said a complaint was lodged on Satyanarayana's Maxbien Pharma, in the wake of the state government initiating steps to acquire land for a pharma village in CM's Kodangal constituency. He said Satyanarayana had a significant stake in Maxbien Pharma, and that "Revanth's son in law's family has already cases registered on them by ED. The ED had previously disclosed that Satyanarayana's relative, Goluguri Ramakrishna, was accused of defrauding a bank .

Meanwhile, a group of women from Lagcharla accompanied by senior BRS leaders went to Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum seeking justice, and action against officials who targeted them following the attack on the Vikarabad collector and revenue officials. They also urged the President to ensure all the men from Lagcherla, and nearby thandas who were arrested, are released immediately.

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath during his visit to Ameenpur municipality on Tuesday. — *DC*

HYDRAA chief checks flooded areas after plea

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath visited Ameenpur municipality on Tuesday following various complaints raised by residents with regard to Peddacheruvu, Kothacheruvu, and Shambhunikunta, accompanied by municipality, revenue and irrigation officials. Plot-owners near Peddacheruvu alleged that due to the closure of lake weirs, the water area had expanded from 93.15 acres to 465 acres, flooding nearby residential layouts which are on higher land. Ranganath assured them that a survey will be conducted, and the report will be submitted to the government to resolve the issue.

Residents of Venkataramana Colony, Padmavati Colony, and HMT Colony complained about the encroachment of parks and roads.

Allegations were levelled against former YSRC MLA Katasani Rambhoopal Reddy of encroaching on land in Padmavati Colony.

Complaints regarding illegal structures within the full tank level (FTL) of Shambhunikunta were also lodged.

Accused in Lagcharla attack case surrenders

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

B. Suresh, BRS youth wing leader, wanted for the attack on Vikarabad collector Prateek Jain, surrendered before the Kodangal court on Tuesday, according to Vikarabad superintendent of police Koti Reddy.

According to the SP, Suresh confessed that he had orchestrated the attack that occurred on November 11, driven by the motive to obstruct a public hearing on land acquisition for the purpose of establishing a pharmaceutical company. Prime accused, BRS former legislator Patnam Narender Reddy, and 25 others have been arrested in the case so far.

Police said that Suresh, despite knowing the farmers were in an agitated mood, requested the collector to visit the village. Suresh's passport has been seized. As he was at large after the attack and before the arrest, a look out notice was issued against him.

"There were 84 calls between Narender Reddy and Suresh in the past month. When we recovered them all, it was found that the two had orchestrated this. Narender Reddy has confessed to the us. We are left with a few more procedures to finish with regard to him," the SP said.

The group had attacked, apart from the Vikarabad collector, the additional collector, Kodangal Area Development Authority (KADA) special officer, the tahsildar and other revenue officials. Narender Reddy is in judicial remand.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor Swarnajayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.

Public Notification U/s. 15(4) of HMDA Act, 2008
(G.O.Ms.No. 152, MA & UD Dept., dated 30.09.2024)
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Revised Development Master Plan, of erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad area (HMDA core area) GHMC circle - IV (old circle No. I) approved vide G.O.Ms.No.363, MA & UD, dt. 21.08.2010, as required by sub-section (1) of the said section.
The site in Pr.No.17-1-393 to 395 in Sy.No.139 of Old Idgha, Saidabad (V&M), Hyderabad District to net extent of 52596.78 Sq.Mtrs/Ac.12-39.88 Gts., excludes Bhoolakshmi Mataji Temple (2428.09 Sq.Mts), well (957.357 Sq.Mtrs) and Durga Jain Mandir (1161.371 Sq.Mts) which is presently earmarked for Public & Semi-Public Use and partly area affected under proposed 80 feet (1756.69 Sq.Mtrs) and 60 feet (2788.26 Sq.Mtrs) Master Plan roads as per the Revised Development Master Plan, of erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad area (HMDA core area) GHMC circle-IV (old circle No.I) approved vide G.O.Ms.No.363, MA & UD, dt. 21.08.2010 is now designated as Residential use.
The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in// and http://hmda.gov.in//.

Sd/-
for Metropolitan Commissioner, Director Planning-II, HMDA

DIPR R.O. No. 666-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25
Dt. 19/11/2024

INDICATIVE NOTIFICATION

RECRUITMENT AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA (Open Advertisement) in various pay levels on Northeast Frontier Railway FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

Northeast Frontier Railway invites ONLINE applications from eligible sportspersons who are citizens of India, for filling up 56 posts [Level-4/5 Group-C = 05 posts, Level-2/3 Group-C = 16 posts and Level-1 (erstwhile Group-D) = 35 posts] for the year 2024-25 against the sports disciplines of Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Golf, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Volleyball & Weightlifting.

Opening date of application : 20/11/2024
Closing date of application : 10/12/2024

Applicant can view detailed notification by visiting website: **www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in** → SPORTS QUOTA RECRUITMENT 2024-25 → Candidates can also submit online application directly by visiting website:- **https://www.nfr-recruitment.in.**

Sr. Personnel Officer (HQ & Rectt.), Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

भा. कृ. अनु. प. - राष्ट्रीय कृषि अनुसंधान प्रबंध अकादमी
राजेन्द्रनगर, हैदराबाद-५०००३०, तेलंगाणा, भारत
ICAR - National Academy of Agricultural Research Management
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030, Telangana, India.
https://naarm.org.in
Phone No. 040-24581390 / 222 Fax No. 24015912

F.No.2-690/2023/A.IV

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

20.11.2024

Walk-in-interview for engagement / hiring of **Visual Effects Expert (one position) & Office Assistant (one position)** purely on contract basis (temporary) will be held at the Academy. The requisite qualifications and other details like date and time of interview for engagement is available on ICAR-NAARM Website: **https://naarm.org.in on or after 20.11.2024.**

DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
Pr.Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, AP & TS,
Block 10C, I.T.Towers, A.C.Guards, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 004

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR EMPANELMENT OF STANDING COUNSELS

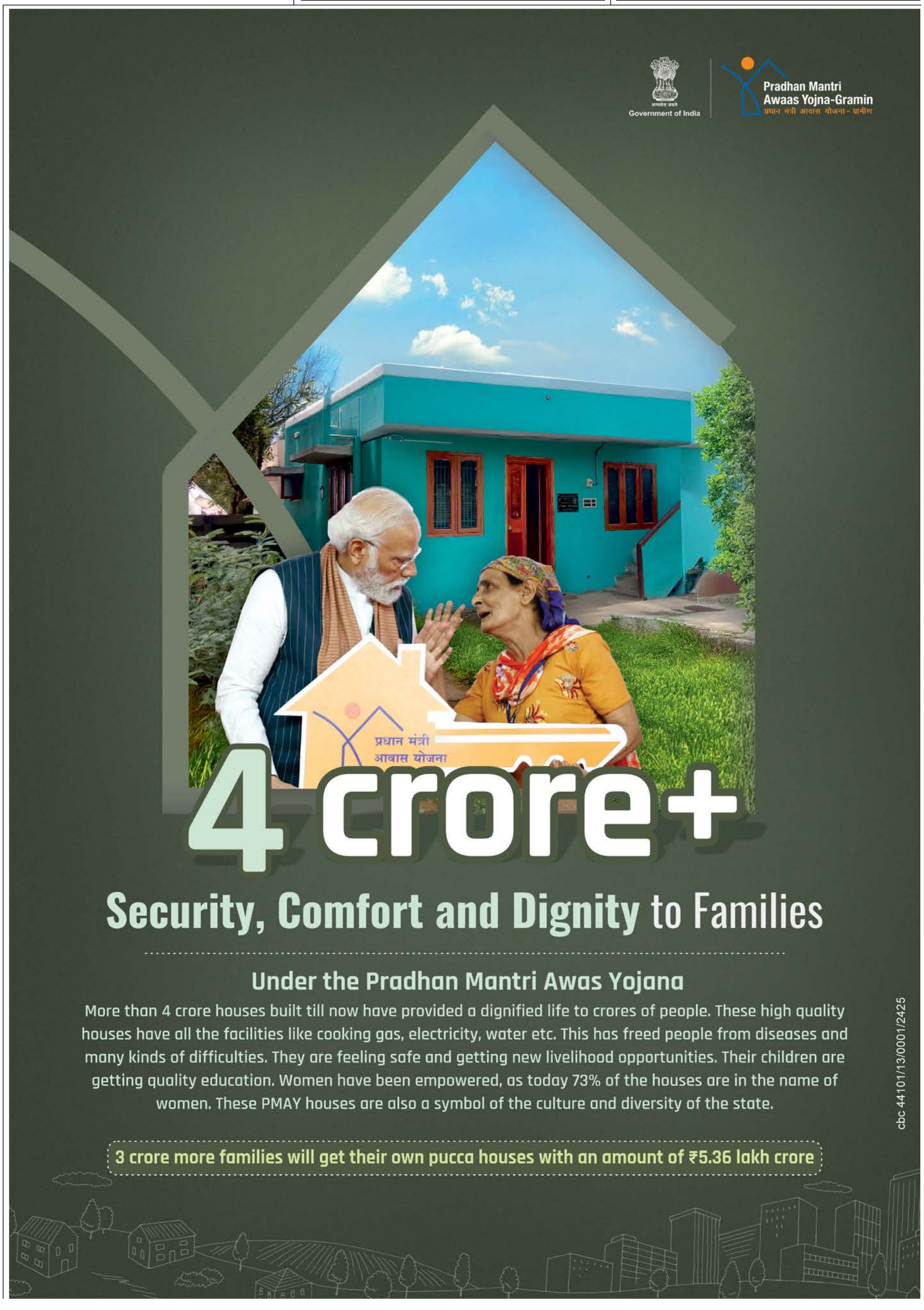
Applications are invited for empanelment of **08(Eight) Senior Standing Counsels and 09(Nine) Junior Standing Counsels** for three year term for representing the IncomeTax Department, before the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad and other judicial fora. Applications are invited from the members of the Bar Council of Telangana High Court having experience in dealing with Income Tax/Direct Tax matters. The terms and conditions of appointment and duties to be performed as Senior/Junior Standing Counsel shall be governed by Instruction No.07/2016, dated 07.09.2016 in F.No.279/Misc/M-75/2011-ITJ(Part-II) which can be downloaded from the internet from **www.incometaxindia.gov.in** or can be collected from the Income Tax Officer (HQrs)(Judicial), Room No.817, O/o Commissioner of Income Tax (Judicial), 8A, I.T.Towers, A.C.Guards, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 004.

2. Persons having requisite qualifications as mentioned in the Board's Instruction No.07/2016, dated 07.09.2016 should submit their application form in Proforma A1/A2, as the case may be (given in Board's Instruction No.07/2016) along with necessary documents in a sealed cover to the **Income Tax Officer (Hqrs) (Judicial), Room No.817, O/o Commissioner of Income Tax(Judicial), 8A, I.T.Towers, A.C.Guards, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 004**. Last date for submission of the application in Form A1/A2 is on or **before 20.12.2024 by 5 P.M.** Applications which are not submitted in the prescribed pro forma or not complete in all respects, are liable to be summarily rejected.

3. Applications complete in all respects, inter alia, educational qualifications, registration before Bar Council of the concerned state and number of years of experience in handling direct tax case laws, will only be considered and only eligible candidates as per Board's Instruction No. 7/2016 will be called for interviews to be held at Hyderabad. The dates of interview would be communicated to the eligible applicants separately. It may be noted that no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

Sd/-
(SHEETAL SARIN)
Jt. Commissioner of Income Tax (Judicial), Hyderabad.

Hyderabad,
Dt : 13.11.2024



https://www.snapfrom.com https://www.americadollars.com/

DECCAN Chronicle

20 NOVEMBER 2024

Delhi-NCR air too toxic to breathe, but govts dither

Delhi's air in winter is injurious to health. With an Air Quality Index nearing 500, even breathing in Delhi has become hazardous. In the old days, people visiting India would be advised, gratuitously of course, not to drink the water or breathe the air. Today's air over the region, including Gurugram, Noida and Faridabad, is smothered in a pea soup fog that hangs like a malevolent blanket, so much so people are being advised to stay indoors on days of poor AQI.

Emergency responses have seen the closing of schools, people working from home and regulations imposed inhibiting normal life as the geographical and meteorological conditions of the winter season take over to affect the weather pattern with a foul fog because of which even trains struggle and flights get routinely rerouted.

When there was a pressing need for action on a war footing to mitigate or try to stave off the crisis that grips New Delhi and many parts of north India every year starting in November, the governments of Delhi and the Centre and of many adjoining states have not been seen to be proactive. They have done little about helping people breathe air that is tolerable, and which can support life in people with medical conditions while not incommoding normal persons.

Some states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have contributed in exacerbating this problem by being blasé about stubble burning while Punjab and Haryana have at least taken some measures

The political blame game, however, creates only din of the kind that people have become inured to as netas point fingers at each other. Truth to tell, the burning of stubble is a national problem about which not enough has been done to find alternatives like changing cropping patterns. Some states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan may have contributed their share to exacerbate this problem by being blasé about it while Punjab and Haryana have at least taken some measures to control it.

The problem is, however, larger than crop burning which is only one contributing factor. Giving up construction and demolitions may be tough to do in a country that is an eternal work in progress, but rules must be adhered to if such activity is not to add to the existing dust and vehicle pollution from transporting people and goods. It will take years anyway to phase out the more polluting older vehicles, but leaders do swear by half-measures like odd and even number plates on alternate days.

The Supreme Court was incensed at the lackadaisical attitude of governments towards handling this recurring crisis until the problem of severe air pollution peaks in November-December when crop burning adds to it because of the timing of harvests. The fact of the matter is that it won't go away until a national effort is coordinated by the Centre and the states follow a host of regulations lest they leave a sizeable population of the country gasping for air and millions risk dying prematurely.

The people can contribute by taking public transportation or car-pooling and the Delhi government can help by not letting solid waste burn and regulating better the incineration of waste in unscientific manners through private industry. So long as blaming everyone but themselves and passing the buck are national pastimes of leaders, the state of the capital will be like this in its unbeautiful cloak of winter. Governments must act round the year to control the conditions that lead to foggy winters and people must wake up, too, and help.

Maha poll race hits a new low

Winning the Maharashtra Assembly elections is an important target for both the BJP and the Congress and their respective alliances in the state and hence it is only expected of them to use all legitimate tools at their disposal to achieve that target. The state hosts the nation's financial capital and sends the second largest contingent of members to the Rajya Sabha, which are reasons enough for a political formation to go the whole hog. The lists of freebies both the fronts have liberally promised the voters have their roots in this desperation to win. But the patently divisive agenda on which the BJP-led Mahayuti has built its campaign in the final phase and the way its national leaders have run it offer a poor comment on their agenda.

It's not because Maharashtra has its own problems to be solved that the saffron alliance took recourse to a communal agenda. The state has been witnessing rural distress in its worst form for decades. A political party willing to show sympathy to the farming community can, therefore, have the people's ear. There is a quota issue which is yet to be settled, and crop failures and unremunerative prices have triggered farmer suicides on a scale not seen in other states. And unemployment, like most other states, is hopelessly high in Maharashtra as well.

But the proponents of the "double engine government" have had other ideas. And slogans like "*Ek hai to safe hai* (united we are safe)", "*batenge to katenge* (divided we fall)" and "*dharma yudh* (war of faith)". These were introduced and propagated by senior BJP leaders including Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, but do nothing except pit one section of the population against another. That is so un-Maharashtrian that even Mahayuti alliance partners stayed away from them.

There is a *laxmanrekha* in every *yudh*, *dharma yudh* included. Victories will taste better when they are won by adhering to the rules of the battlefield.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

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Subhani

India's hopes, fears rise as Trump picks 'dream team'

Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

The highly individualistic new Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, might leaven the President-elect's grand vision of American might with an element of human concern that has nothing to do with propping up an adversary of China

Thanks to China, India has reason not to be displeased with the initial list of members of US President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet. While Marco Rubio and Mike Waltz, respectively nominated as secretary of state and national security adviser, favour more abiding security ties with India, the highly individualistic new Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, might leaven the President-elect's grand vision of American might with an element of human concern that has nothing to do with propping up an adversary of China's.

Florida's Senator Rubio presided over the 2023 Defence Cooperation Act to widen and deepen the strategic partnership between India and the United States. Waltz is head of the India Caucus in the US Congress. Gabbard, the American Samoa-born daughter of a white American couple from Hawaii who embraced Hinduism and raised their children in the faith, is a lifelong vegetarian.

Gabbard swore her oath to enter Congress — she was then a Democrat — on a copy of the *Bhagavad Gita* which she later presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I know Tulsi will bring the fearless spirit that has defined her illustrious career to our intelligence community" Trump announced about the 43-year-old first Hindu Congresswoman in the US. Although with limited experience of intelligence operations, Gabbard brings military experience to the job, having served in the Army National Guard for over two decades with deployments to Iraq and Kuwait.

Meanwhile, "the Great Elon Musk" and "American Patriot Vivek Ramaswamy" — both basking in encomiums bestowed on them by the President-elect — and heading the new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), will help Trump to "dismantle government bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure federal agencies" to realise his dreams.

The Office of American Innovation was supposed to do this last time. But no President is omnipotent. Trump will need cooperative colleagues and skilful Speakers to get round the procedural complexities of both chambers to make a success of DOGE.

Even so, in achieving the "America First" agenda, Trump's "dream team" rooted in personal loyalty, policy alignment and shared priorities may not please all friends and allies. US trade officials cannot approve of China's tactic of flooding the world with cheap manufactures.

The nomination as attorney-general of the Florida Congressman, Matt Gaetz, who resigned after allegations of misconduct, including paid sex with a minor, which he denies, have shocked even Republicans. India's unmentioned agenda of sending lakhs of emigrants to grab as many "Green Cards" as they can might feel thwarted by the anti-H-1B Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff for policy, and Tom Homan, the new "border czar".

Indians who feel victimised can turn to Gabbard who has picked up the cudgels for them more than once in her past career. Shortly after being elected co-chair of the India Caucus in 2017, she talked about how Pakistan continued to allow its territory to be used by terrorists in India, Afghanistan and elsewhere. "In Congress, I've worked to cut back US assistance for Pakistan, particularly any military assistance, and increase pressure on Pakistan to stop these dangerous actions and break these ties", she explained.

The Stop Arming Terrorists Act that she moved in the House of Representatives to end US funding of terrorist groups in Syria and its environs would have ended US funding for countries that back terrorism, such as Pakistan, if passed. Her comments about violence against Indian minorities as well as "the recent rise of violence against Indians, Hindus, Sikhs, and other religious and ethnic minorities" reveal a profound concern for the human condition and an instinctive understanding of the compulsions that inspired India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

She attacked the Pakistani Army for cruelty against Hindus in 1971, and recently moved a resolution in Congress for the protection of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh after they had suffered repeated atrocities. "In the 115th Congress," she had promised, "we will continue our work to increase awareness and understanding across our communities, and urge the department of justice to investigate these horrific acts and address the rise of hate crimes across the country."

Her influence might partly explain Trump's vocal campaign against the anti-Hindu violence recently in Bangladesh after Sheikh Hasina's ouster. It's ironic that Bangladesh's attorney-general, Muhammad Asaduzzaman, should choose this moment to suggest that Bangladesh, with a huge Muslim population (now more than 90 per cent), should become constitutionally a Muslim country. But that is quite another issue.

At a personal level, Marco Rubio's nomination significantly alters his relationship with Trump. A fierce critic during the 2016 Republican primaries when he famously called today's President-elect a "con man", Rubio is now an ally, embracing Trump's policies on immigration and foreign relations. With his expertise as vice-chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and given his hawkish views on China, Cuba, and Iran, Rubio could play a central role in advancing Trump's foreign policy goals.

Others of consequence include Fox News's Pete Hegseth, now nominated secretary of defence, an Army National Guard veteran with combat experience of Iraq and Afghanistan; South Dakota's plucky Governor Kristi Noem who will be secretary of homeland security; and the "tough, smart, innovative, and universally admired and respected" (quoting Trump) Susie Wiles, who refused to implement Covid-19 restrictions, and will be White House chief of staff with a pivotal role in shaping Trump's foreign policy strategy and overseeing border security.

The two remaining mysteries are the incoming administration's stand on Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine and the Israeli belligerence in West Asia. The world is waiting for the President-elect to demonstrate his readiness and ability to bring peace to Ukraine. At the same time, the former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, selected as ambassador to Israel, is a staunch defender of the Zionist state and opponent of a two-state solution, advocating instead de facto Israeli absorption of the entire region.

Trump's intentions might become clearer when the dark horse in his stable, his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, said to be as close to Saudi Arabia's real ruler, Crown Prince Md bin Salman al Saud, as he is to Zionist extremism, emerges into the light of decision-making. Last time around the OAI under Kushner failed to make much headway. There are fears that DOGE might go the same way. If so, Indian-Americans at least can turn to Tulsi Gabbard. Rules permitting, her native Hawaii's Aloha spirit won't let them down.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

HYGIENE TOILETS

It's the primary duty of the GHMC not only to provide public toilets but also to maintain them properly *(Toilets cry for maintenance, Nov. 19)*. Where is the money collected from taxpayers being used?

Pradeep Kamadana
Hyderabad

Pay and use toilet concept is ridiculous. If everything is collected from citizens, then what is the government for?

M.A. Muqtadeer
Hyderabad

REVIVAL OF CITY LAKES

Waste from chemical factories and sewage water flows into Hussainsagar. No wonder one experiences burning in eyes and breathing problems *(10 lakes to be revived, says HYDRAA chief, Nov. 19)*. Steps must be taken to renew rainwater sources from Naubatpahad and Raj Bhavan which was prevalent during the Nizam rule.

K. Balan
Hyderabad

RELIGIOUS ATTIRE

Why can't a school allow children to wear Ayyappa attire when other religion students are allowed to wear their religious attires? *(School bars kids observing Ayyappa Swamy Deeksha, Nov 19)*. Either allow all or ban them all.

Kiran Sirigiri
Hyderabad

NON-HINDUS IN TTD

It's a courageous decision by the TTD to transfer non-Hindu staff *(TTD to transfer non Hindu staff, Nov. 19)*. Calling for Sanatana unity cannot be branded as communal.

Ventrapragada Srinivas Rao
Hyderabad

HONEST LINEMAN

Honesty at its best *(TGSPDCL lineman gives bag of ₹2 lakh to police, Nov. 19)*. We rarely see this kind of humanity.

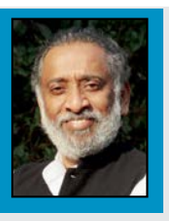
Mohammed Abdul Muqeed
Hyderabad

SPIRIT OF CRICKET

The reasoning for non-participation of the Indian cricket in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan is illuminating (India's refusal to play cricket is not solving our main problem with Pakistan, Nov. 19). Sports needs to be kept aloof from politics in view of reasoning elucidated by the author.

Govind Kumar
Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com.



Dilip Cherian

Dilli Ka Babu

Extension raj in PESB, Lok Sabha secretariat... Will RBI come next?

Since its second term, the Narendra Modi government has retained top civil servants beyond retirement for "continuity in policy-making". Weeks after being voted back to power, the Narendra Modi government extended the tenure of Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Tapan Kumar Deka. In addition, the government also reappointed Amit Khare and Tarun Kapoor as advisers to the PM, giving a firm message of continuity in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the Modi government's third term, albeit in coalition with other parties this time. Rajesh Kotecha, secretary in the AYUSH ministry since 2017, also got his third extension since his appointment.

Clearly, the government's penchant for extensions to top officials continues. Senior IAS Utpal Kumar Singh, the incumbent secretary-general of Lok Sabha (Secretariat), has reportedly been given another one-year extension. Singh's term was expected to end this month. Further, Mallika Srinivasan, chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), received an extension just days before retiring, allowing her to continue until November 2025. Srinivasan's leadership has been pivotal in steering the PESB, and the extension suggests confidence in her steady approach.

Meanwhile, a similar question hangs over Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das as his six-year term winds down on December 10. Under Das' watch, the RBI has navigated major economic hurdles, including the pandemic, while holding interest rates steady for nearly two years despite calls for easing. His continuity could provide stability amid a tough economic climate, and while speculation points towards an extension, there's no official word yet. The appointments committee of the Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Modi and home minister Amit Shah, holds the decision.

Adding to the intrigue, RBI deputy governor Michael Patra's term ends in January. Observers agree that a leadership change, whether Das or Patra, might impact the RBI's approach to interest rates, particularly given Das' consistent control over inflation.

MBA BABUS? NARAYAN MURTHY'S BOLD FIX

So, after urging India's youth to embrace the charms of a 70-hour work week, Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy has now set his sights on the world of Indian bureaucracy. His latest brainstorm? Recruit IAS and IPS officers from top business schools instead of relying solely on the tried-and-tested UPSC exams. Because, of course, India's civil servants need a crash course in "management mindset" to catapult us towards that elusive $50 trillion economy by 2047.

Murthy's pitch is intriguing: Bring in leaders trained to chase KPIs, crunch numbers, and wield PowerPoints. After all, if corporate leadership can steer billion-dollar enterprises, why can't it give a little corporate shine to the business of governance? Murthy argues that while our government machinery, bless its bureaucratic heart, remains tethered to the status quo, business leaders are wired to "aspire". Imagine that — babus with business plans!

On the one hand, Murthy's timing couldn't be better. As Modi's government pushes for economic reform and modernisation, Murthy believes a dose of management mojo could shake things up. He even suggested that civil servants should get tailored business training before tackling sectors like agriculture, defence, or manufacturing. The idea of sector-specific management boot camps sounds appealing, but will our traditionalist babus, who've already endured UPSC's gauntlet, agree?

OF SAMOSAS AND SOCIAL MEDIA SPATS

When it comes to governance quirks, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala both seem to offer plenty of comic relief. In Himachal, the case of Baddi SP Ilma Afroz, an earnest IPS officer who left a prestigious UN job to serve her country, stands out. Her transgression? Daring to issue a fine to vehicles linked to the family of MLA Ram Kumar Chaudhary for alleged illegal mining activities. The response was swift: A breach of privilege motion in the Assembly and an enforced "vacation". Here, apparently, refusing to bend the rules in favour of political connections can send you on indefinite leave. But, hey, when you have investigations into the CM's missing samosas to prioritise, keeping hard-working officers on duty isn't exactly urgent.

Meanwhile, Kerala's governance drama recently unfolded on social media, with two IAS officers finding themselves suspended after an online spat. The saga began when K. Gopalakrishnan formed a WhatsApp group called "Mallu Hindu Officers" that included senior Hindu IAS officials. The group was quickly deleted, but the controversy was just warming up. Another officer, N. Prasanth, aired grievances against senior official A. Jayathilak through a series of posts, triggering a very public spectacle. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan acted promptly, putting both officers on ice to cool off. With one state busy issuing leaves to honest officers and the other quelling social media feuds among babus, one wonders if the real challenges of governance could be taken half as seriously as these diversions. But why tackle hard issues when you can deal with "missing savouries" or a rogue WhatsApp group?

Love them, hate them ignore them at national peril, is the babu guarantee and Dilip's belief. Share significant babu escapades dilipcherian@hotmail.com.

https://www.snapfrom.com https://www.americadollars.com/

Dad-daughters reunion after 6 years goes viral

Daughters coincidentally met Balayya at an orphanage

PRATHYUSH NALLELLA I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

A mentally unstable man, who had gone missing six years ago, was reunited with his daughters at an orphanage. The family has requested against the use of their pictures.

The Matrudevobhava orphanage has been taking care of the man, Balayya, who was found wandering aimlessly near the Jubilee Hills Peddamma Temple area six years ago.

Coincidentally, Balayya's daughters Divya and Lavanya visited the orphanage to organise a food donation event a month ago. During their visit, they told with the orphanage's organiser Gattu Giri that her father had gone missing six years ago.

WE FOUND Balayya roaming near the temple. So we got him to our orphanage at Nadergul. Immediately, we uploaded his picture and details to the Rachakonda police station.

— GATTU GIRI
Matrudevobhava orphanage founder

Over the past month, the orphanage's staff observed the behaviour of Balayya's daughters to ensure that they were capable and prepared to take care of him.

After having satisfied themselves about the sincerity of Balayya's daughters, the orphanage staff took them to their father when they returned to the shelter for another donation event. The reunion was deeply emotional.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle,* Matrudev-obhava orphanage's founder Gattu Giri said: "We found Balayya roaming near the temple. So we got him to our orphanage at Nadergul. Immediately, we uploaded his picture and details to the Rachakonda police station." "His daughters, who are both married, told us that he used to regularly leave home and come back. Six years ago when he left, they assumed he'd come back and didn't even file a police complaint," Giri said.

"We help people who are mentally unstable or who cannot take care of themselves by bringing them under one roof and making sure their basic necessities are met. I have a private business, and I spend about 30 per cent of my earnings on the orphanage. Along with that, other people also donate money to the orphanage during their special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries," Giri added. "As the video went viral, many people began contacting the daughters, causing them distress. We took down the videos as well, to prevent causing them further hardship," he said.

IN BRIEF

Police order ban on drone use

Hyderabad: Cyberabad police commissioner Avinash Mohanty on Tuesday banned the operation of remotely controlled drones, para-gliders or microlight aircraft over the Madhapur police station area in view of visit of President Droupadi Murmu. He said violators of the orders would be prosecuted.

ISB, IIIT-DELHI TIE UP TO LAUNCH NEW CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The Indian School of Business's Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) has partnered with IIIT-Delhi and the Delhi Research Implementation and Innovation Foundation (DRIIV) to launch a centre of excellence on aerial and water robotics for development and sustainability (CoE-AWRDS), with a focus on real-world solutions for social and environmental challenges.

The centre aims to foster cutting-edge advancements in drone and underwater robotics technology, enhancing capabilities in autonomy, sensing, and navigation. Explaining the broader vision, Prof. Ashwini Chhatre, executive director of BIPP, told Deccan Chronicle, "Our collaboration seeks to transform research into practical robotic applications".

TG TO UTILISE UNUSED LANDS TO ATTRACT FIRMS

FROM PAGE 1

Other major unutilised land holdings include Ordnance Factory, Medak, having 2,000 acres unused, BHEL, Lingampally, 2,125 acres, ECIL, Cherlapally, 930 acres, HAL, Balanagar, 214 acres, DRDO and DRDL, Chandrayangutta, 55 acres

Additionally, three defunct PSUs - Cement Corporation of India (CCI) in Adilabad, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Ltd (IDPL) in Balanagar, and Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) in Quthbullapur - hold 2,290 acres, 891 acres, and 123 acres, respectively.

Official sources said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to engage with the concerned Union ministries to reclaim these land parcels. The state argues that these parcels were allotted at nominal or zero cost to support industrial growth and employment generation.

With Hyderabad facing a severe shortage of industrial land, the state government intends to repurpose the unutilised parcels to attract new industries. However, discussions with the Centre have hit a roadblock, as Union ministries are reportedly demanding market rates for the land. The state is seeking a compromise, urging the Centre to either return the lands free of cost or sell them at the government-assessed value instead of market prices.

While the state government is keen on facilitating industrial development through these lands, it remains unclear whether the Centre will adhere to its request. Official sources revealed that the lands' open-market valuation exceeds ₹40,000 crore, significantly higher than the government-prescribed valuation of ₹6,000 crore.

HI, AI SYNERGY MUST FOR VIKSIT BHARAT: EXPERTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The imperative for a balanced synergy between human intelligence and artificial intelligence (AI) to propel India into a prosperous and sustainable future was the core theme discussed at the two-day national seminar hosted by the St Francis College for Women. The seminar, organised by the department of commerce, which commenced on Monday, attracted about 110 attendees.

Chief guest Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy, HoD, department of economics and director of the southern regional centre of the ICSSR, Osmania University, said AI's potential in research and innovation was immense and added, "Young researchers should take advantage of ICSSR grants to conduct meaningful work that blends AI and human intelligence."

Keynote speaker Prof. K. Srinivas, head of the ICT and project management unit at the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, stressed that the role of educators.

"While AI is a powerful tool, it cannot substitute the human touch in teaching and learning," he said.

Dr Vanisree Talluri, associate professor of commerce and convener of the seminar, spoke about the urgency of adapting to rapid technological shifts, describing it as a "treadmill of revolution." College principal Dr Uma Joseph contextualised the seminar within India's historical journey.

THE SEMINAR, organised by the department of commerce, which commenced on Monday, attracted about 110 attendees.

Sridhar opens modern health innovation centre

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Hyderabad continued to solidify its position as a global hub for innovation and excellence, said IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu, during the inauguration of Evernorth Health Services, the country's first global capability centre in the health sector. Given its purpose-driven vision and commitment to transforming healthcare, Evernorth was a valuable addition to Telangana's thriving GCC ecosystem, he said.

Located at Hitec City, the state-of-the-art facility was inaugurated by Sridhar Babu and Noelle Eder, chief information officer of The Cigna Group. This facility will drive Evernorth's mission to develop transformative healthcare solutions by leveraging Hyderabad's GCC ecosystem and talent pool. In its first phase, Evernorth plans to onboard around 1,000 employees, fostering a collaborative and innovative environment.

IT and industries minister D. Sridhar Babu inaugurates the Evernorth Health Services in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

The Hyderabad GCC strengthens Evernorth's presence in India, complementing Cigna Health Solutions India, its centre of excellence in Bengaluru that focuses on data, analytics, operations, and technology for the international health business. Evernorth also serves over 19 million Indians through ManipalCigna, a joint venture launched in 2014.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hyderabad district Collector Anudeep Durisheety with government school students at Azampura on Tuesday. — *P. SURENDRA*

Collector opens sanitary napkins incinerator

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Hyderabad collector Anudeep Durishetty inaugurated a sanitary napkin incinerator at Government School No. 1 in Azampura. The eco-friendly incinerator was installed as part of an initiative by the Youngistaan Foundation with support from the Telangana State Innovation Cell and CSR partner Altimetrik India Pvt. Ltd. Collector Durishetty stated the need to remove the stigma, myth, fear, superstitions on menstruation and encouraged students to talk openly about it. Hyderabad district education officer Rohini discussed about the importance of using the incinerator for maintaining personal and societal hygiene.

TUMMALA INTERACTS WITH FARMERS

Hyderabad: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao interacted with the farmers via video conference and tried to elicit their problems. He asked them to desist from burning their agricultural waste and instead allow it rot in the soil. The farmers expressed their satisfaction on receiving a bonus for fine variety paddy within two days. They informed that the facilities at the paddy purchase centres are good and thanked the government for the same.

HUSBAND OF BRS LEADER ATTACKED

Nizamabad: Nizamabad mayor Neethu Kiran's husband and BRS leader Dandu Chandrasekhar was injured in an attack by an autorickshaw driver here on Monday over a land dispute. Chandrasekhar was admitted to a hospital.

Turning trouble

An RTC bus driver faces difficulty while taking a turn on the narrow road at the Bowenpally signal in Secunderabad. — *K. DURGA RAO*

Dharur Christian jatara concludes, 20 lakh attend

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The Dharur Christian Jatara which was inaugurated last Tuesday witnessed more than 20 lakh devotees in its 102nd annual edition.

Last week, two bishops from Hyderabad and Bengaluru were present at the mega event with hundreds of Christians from Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra attending. The jatara was held adjacent to the Dharur vagu.

Several families put up canvas tents for visitors to stay for all the six days of the event. The devout engage themselves in the praise of the Lord singing bhajans till late in the night.

As part of the concluding session on Sunday evening, after the special worship service, villagers auctioned part of their harvest and cattle for minimal prices.

Ruth Karumani Masicharan, singer and lyrist, said, "From the day of inauguration till the closing ceremony, it was a great experience. I have been experiencing this from my childhood and every year it is different experience. My family eagerly awaits this jatara each year."

Dharur Christian Jatara which concluded near the Dharur Vagu last Tuesday. — *DC*

M.A. Daniel, one of the participants, expressed his happiness on the event. "My family and I actively take part. Many of them come by walk. They take part in prayers all the six days."

Rev. Dr Anakali Steven, secretary of the Dharur Jatara, said, "In 1923, missionaries Rev. Seamonds and Rev. M.D. Ross, set this up to in the middle of the jungle to train pastors. Soon villagers too joined it. Now you can see lakhs of faithful participating."

Rev. M. John Victor, DSP, Vikarabad, said, "The event is full of traditional activities which include kolatam, chitikala bhajana, burra katha and tribal Christian songs."

UoH students protest, want no moral policing

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The University of Hyderabad is facing student-led protests over what has been termed as "moral policing" and invasive practices by the chief warden's flying squad. On November 18, unannounced raids were conducted at Men's Hostel F, with reports of forceful entry into rooms by the flying squad, accompanied by security personnel, and the videographing of students without their consent.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI), which has condemned the infringement of privacy and accused the administration of oppressive conduct.

According to student representatives, five students were arbitrarily fined amounts ranging from â‚¹10,000 to â‚¹30,000 for violations such as using kettles and induction cookers in their, a rule students claim is based on a hostel rulebook that was rejected by the general body in 2019.

The SFI has decried these measures as a diversionary tactic by chief warden Suvashisa Rana, alleging that he had failed to address more pressing issues like declining food quality, increasing mess fees, and the lack of essential facilities such as hot water dispensers and common kitchens.

One student recounted an incident where a physically challenged boarder, unable to visit the mess, was subjected to video recording by the squad even when he was partially dressed. Another case involved a student engaging in a study session with a female friend, where male staff of the warden's team allegedly barged in and recorded videos.

"Invading students' privacy under the guise of rule enforcement is unacceptable. The chief warden's conduct is inhumane," said another student.

The raids were temporarily halted following strong resistance and protests from the students. University registrar Devesh Nigam told the students that further raids and fines would be suspended pending review.

University officials noted that students had been given an opportunity to address their grievances. "While students have been asked by the chief warden to file a representation at his office to reconsider any fines they believe are unfair, most have not taken this step," stated a university official. The receipt of fines showed that the students were in possession of even "banned substances" and "unauthorised boarders" in the hostels.

"Students deserve dignity, not surveillance," declared Mohit G., an SFI member.

Footpath encroachment case goes to HC

L. RAVICHANDER
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court will hear a writ plea challenging the alleged illegal construction on a public footpath affecting his business. The judge was dealing with a writ plea filed by Mohammed Akbar from Osmania Bazaar who alleged that neighbouring Moradabad Metal House had demolished a footpath in front of their shop to construct walls and shutters, encroaching on public space. The petitioner stated that despite filing complaints with the GHMC and an FIR with Charminar police, no action was taken. Photographic evidence, was submitted to the court. Senior counsel M.V.S. Suresh Kumar, counsel for the petitioner, urged the court to direct GHMC to remove the encroachment and restore the footpath for public use. The government pleader for GHMC sought time to seek instructions. The judge wanted counsel to find out from the authorities what action was taken on the representations made by the petitioner

LEGAL STORIES

HC ORDERS JOURNO SOCIETY POLLS

The Telangana High Court directed the State Co-perative Election Authority to conduct elections for the Journalists Cooperative Housing Society Ltd within two months. A two-judge panel comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J. Sreenivas Rao was dealing with two writ appeals filed by G. Guruva Reddy and another. Earlier, two writ petitions were filed by P. Janga Reddy and 237 others inter alia seeking elections by including in the voters list, the names of the petitioners and the members who were admitted between 2002 and 2020. The case of the petitioners was that as per the admission register of the society, it had enrolled 2,554 members, however, as per a report by a three-member committee report, only 890 were admitted against the directions issued by the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies under Section 4(2) of the Act, 1964. The petitioners argued that they were on the list of admitted members prepared between 2002 and 2020 but, according to the official respondents, their enrolment was contrary to the Act. The [etitioners said that their membership could not be invalidated based on the report of the three-member committee. A single judge directed the State Cooperative Election Authority to verify the records and finalise the voters list with the assistance of the deputy registrar of cooperative societies without involving the other respondents and without being influenced by the report of the three-member committee. The appellants argued that the respondents were accused of attempting to gain voting rights despite the lack of available plots, which is contrary to a direction issued under Section 4(2) of the Act. It was argued that despite being aware of their ineligibility, the petitioners attempted to gain entry into the voters list. The panel modified the order of the single judge and expunged the direction pertaining to finalisation of the voter list without being influenced by the report of the three-member committee.

HC JUNKS ENGINEER PLEA IN GRAFT CASE

Justice K. Surender confirmed the sentence against a former additional assistant engineer (operations) in APCPDCL, in a bribery case. The case of the prosecution before the Additional Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Hyderabad, was that the accused demanded a bribe of ₹2,000 and later reduced it to ₹1,000. A trap was laid. PW1 handed over the amount to the appellant. The special judge refused to accept the defence of the appellant that the amount was towards development charges. Justice Surender said that in view of the defence taken by the appellant, that the amount was towards development, the burden shifted onto the appellant to substantiate his version. The judge found that there was proof of demand and payment and added that the prosecution had proved that the appellant demanded and accepted the bribe amount.

Full reports in deccanchronicle.com

CHIKUNGUNYA ALERT FOR US TRAVELLERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 19

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a 'Level 2' travel advisory, highlighting a 'higher than expected' chikungunya cases among travellers going to the US from Telangana, indicating an outbreak of the disease in the South Indian state. The United States' public health agency has advised travellers to practice enhanced precautions.

The CDC has advised travellers to wear long sleeve shirts and pants, use mosquito repellents and avoid travelling to the state in case you are pregnant and nearing your delivery date. It has also advised vaccination for those above 18.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 13/2024 Date: 18.11.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "**Open Tender**" through Online only (**E-Tendering**) for the following work:

E-Tender No. : AGRA-ST-2024-68

Name of work : **PWL - JHS** :- Comprehensive annual maintenance contract of Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system for a period 24 Months.

Approx. Cost of work. : 6,72,89,181.12 | **Tender closing date** : 10.12.2024

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to 15:00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 1994/24 (AS)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

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GPR MALL	PRASAD'S
CINEMART	MJR SQUARE
FORUM MALL | ICON | INORBIT | MALLAPUR IRRUMMANZIL | MUSARAMBAG | CENTRAL CENTRAL | PRESTONE | ATRIUM MALL | PRISM	
GVK | GSM | MP MALL | NECKLACE ASHOKA ONE | PRISM MALL	
CCPL | MANTRA | SUDHA | DSL LULU MALL	
SIVAGANGA | SHA | MCUBE | CINEPLANET CINESQUARE | MJR SQAURE | JP MALL	
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GVK | GSM | MP MALL | NECKLACE ASHOKA ONE | PRISM MALL	
SIVAGANGA | SHA | MCUBE | CINEPLANET CINESQUARE | MJR SQAURE | JP MALL JP CINEMAS | CINEMART | LAKSHMIKALA CINEPRID	
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ASIAN SWAPNA 11.15,2.15,6.00	INDRA/NAGENDRA 11.00,6.00PM
SENSATION70MM 11.15,2.30PM	ASIAN MUKUND70 2.00,9.00PM
VIJETHA70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM	SUPER70MM 11.15,6.15PM
SAMPOORNA70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM	ASIAN JYOTHI70 11.15,2.15,6.15,9.15PM
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ALANLKAR70MM 11.00,2.00,6.00,9.00PM	LAKSHMIKALAMANDIR 6.30,9.30PM
LAKSHMISHAMABAD 11.30,2.30,6.00,9.00PM	BHUJANGA70MM 11.30,2.30,6.00,9.00PM
MOOSAPET-11.15,2.40,6.10,9.40	
AMB-10.00,1.20,4.10.7.30,10.55	
10.30,1.30,4.30,7.35,10.40PM	
10.10,1.15,3.55,7.35,10.40PM	
10.15,1.30,4.10,7.25,10.40PM	
PRASAD-11.10,2.00,5.00,10.50PM	
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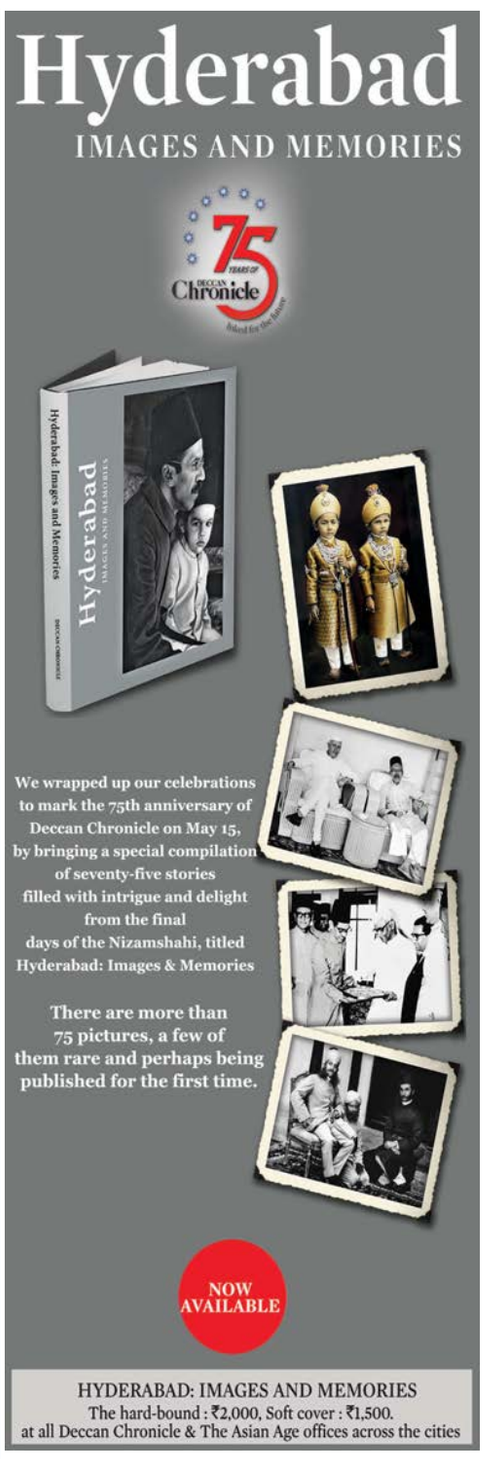
1.30,7.30PM	TIVOLI EXTREME 10.20,4.30,10.40
ASIAN CINEMAS	CINESQUARE-10.25,1.25,4.40,7.30,10.50 RADHIKA-10.15,1.15,4.30,7.25,10.50 JP MALL-10.15,1.25,4.35,7.40,10.50PM MCUBE-10.20,1.35,4.30,10.40PM CINEPLANET-10.10,1.10,7.25,10.50PM SIVAGANGA-11.00,6.00PM SHA-11.15,2.30,6.15PM
INOX	GVK MALL-11.00,2.40,6.15,9.50PM ASHOKA ONE-11.25,3.00,6.35,10.10PM GSM MALL-11.15,2.50,6.25,10.00PM MP MALL-2.40,7.30PM NECKLACE-11.15,2.50,6.25,10.00PM
Cinépolis	CCPL-10.10,1.10,4.10,10.45PM SUDHA-12.50,4.20,7.40PM LULU-10.15,12.40,4.55,7.30,11.20PM MANTRA-10.00,1.15,4.25,7.35,11.00 DSL-10.00,4.30,7.30,11.05PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS	MIYAPUR-4.20,10.50PM MALKAJGIRI-4.20,10.50PM BALANAGAR-10.00,1.00,7.30PM SHALINI-10.00,1.00,7.00PM RC PURAM-10.10,4.20,10.50PM
MOVIETIME	SKY MALL-1.00,7.40PM GACHIBOWLI-10.00,4.00,10.50PM AMEERPET-1.00,10.00PM
PVR CINEMAS	RK-12.55,4.25PM CENTRAL-10.15,4.10,7.40PM FORUM-10.15,1.15,4.15,7.40,11.10PM INORBIT-10.15,4.15,11.00PM ICON-10.10,4.50,11.15PM PRISM-10.00,12.30,7.15PM ATRIUM-10.05,4.25,11.05PM PRESTONE-10.10,1.25,11.00PM IRRUMMANZIL-10.15,4.15,7.35,11.05 MUSARAMBAGH-10.10,4.15,7.35,11.05 L&T GALLERIA-10.15,4.10,7.30,10.50
ASIAN MUJ SQUARE	10.10,1.00,4.30,7.45,11.00PM

Hyderabad
IMAGES AND MEMORIES



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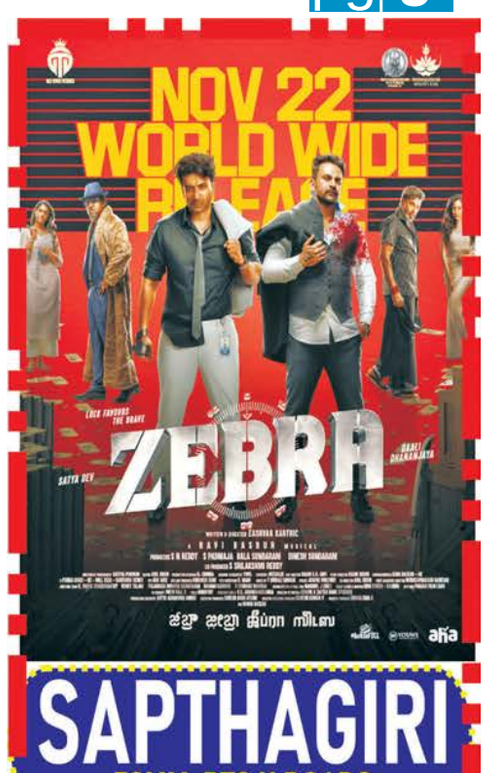

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CCPL | MANTRA | DSL |SUDHA | LULU	
GVK| GSM | MP MALL| NECKLACE | ASOKA	
BVK VIJAYALAXMI-LB NAGAR	
PRASAD MULTIPLEX	
TIVOLI XTREME-SEC'BAD	
MALKAJGIRI | CHANDANAGAR DILSUKNAGAR | MIYAPUR BALANAGAR	
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AMB	7.00PM,7.10PM,7.25PM
AAA	AAA-7.15PM
PRASAD'S	NTR PRASAD'S
PVR	PVR FORUM MALL

AMB CINEMAS	
ASIAN SATYAM AMEERPET	
ASIAN CINEMART-RC PURAM	
CINESQUARE | MCUBE|CINEPLANET RADHIKA | SIVAGANGA | SHA | JP MALL	
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FORUM MALL | ICON |INORBIT MALL IRRUMMANZIL | MUSARAMBAG RK PLEX | CENTRAL | L&T GALLERIA PRESTON | ATRIUM |MALLAPUR	
CCPL | MANTRA | DSL |SUDHA | LULU	
GVK| GSM | MP MALL| NECKLACE | ASOKA	
BVK VIJAYALAXMI-LB NAGAR	
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SRILAKSHMI/INDRA NAGENDRA	
ALANKAR70MM-LUNGERHOUSE	
PRASANTH70MM SEC'BAD	SAIRANGA70MM MIYAPUR
RAJYALAKSHMI 70MM-UPPAL	VLS SRIDEVI70 CHILAKALGUDA
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SREERAMANA70 AMBERPETA	SRISAIRAM70MM MALKAJGIRI
SREEPREMA70 TUKKUGUDA	GANESH70MM SHAMSHABAD
RAGHAVENDRA70 BB NAGAR	SRIKRISHNA70 ALIYABAD
SANTOSH70MM IBRAHIMPATNAM	SHETTY CINEMA CHOWDARYGUDA
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VISWANATH 70-11.45,2.45,6.45,9.45PM	
INDRA/NAGENDRA 70MM-11.00,6.00PM	
LAKSHMIKALA-11.25,2.40,9.45PM	
VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI-9.30PM	
SREERAMULU 70MM-6.30,9.30PM	
RAJADHANI DELUXE-6.30,9.30PM	
PVR CINEMAS	FORUM-10.00,1.15,4.30,7.45,11.00PM INORBIT-1.00,7.40,10.55PM CENTRAL-9.45,1.00,7.40,10.55PM HITECH-9.45,1.00,7.40,11.10PM L&T METRO-9.55,1.10,4.25,7.40,10.55PM PRISM-1.15,4.30,7.45PM MOOSARAMBAGH-9.45,1.00,4.15,7.30, 10.45PM | IRRUMANZIL-9.45,1.00,4.15, 7.30,10.45PM | RK-1.20,4.10,8.00PM ATRIUM-9.45,1.00,7.40,11.10PM PRESTONE-1.25,4.40,7.55PM
AMB	10.20,1.05,4.40,7.45,10.50PM
AAA	10.15,1.25,7.30,10.50PM
PRASAD'S	10.25,2.25,5.10,8.30PM
NEO	1.20,4.40,8.10,10.55PM
MOVIE MAX	10.15,1.15,4.15,10.30PM
GPR	4.20,10.20PM
MULTIPLEX	1.45,7.40PM
ASIAN CINEMART	10.00,1.00,7.40,10.40PM
ASIAN MJR SQUARE	10.25,4.35,10.50
MOVIETIME	SKY MALL-4.15PM GACHIBOWLI-10.00,4.15,10.15PM AMEERPET-4.30,10.30PM
ASIAN CINEMAS	RADHIKA-1.40,7.45PM CINEPLANET-10.35,1.35,4.30,7.30PM MCUBE-1.30,7.40 | SHA-2.45PM CINESQUARE-10.30,4.35,7.50,10.45 MJR-10.25,4.35,10.50 | SIVA-2.30PM JP MALL-10.30,4.45,7.35,10.35PM
Cinépolis	LULU-10.00,1.35,7.45,11.05PM DSL-11.00,1.10,8.05,11.20PM CCPL-10.30,1.00,8.00,10.55PM MANTRA-1.15,4.40,10.40PM
INOX	GVK-12.45,4.00,7.15,10.30PM GSM-12.25,3.40,6.55,10.10PM ASHOKA-10.00,3.50,7.05,10.20PM MP MALL-11.45,3.00,6.15,9.30PM NECKLACE-12.25,3.40,6.55,10.10PM
MIRAJ CINEMAS	BALANAGAR-1.20,4.30,7.40PM SHALINI-1.20,4.20,7.25PM MIYAPUR-1.25,4.30,7.40PM GEETH-1.20,4.30,7.40PM MALKAJGIRI-1.20,4.30,7.40PM
TIVOLI EXTREME	TIVOLI-11.00,7.40PM

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SREERAMULU70MM-MOOSAPET	
TALLURI70MM	SRISAIRAM70MM
SRIKRISHNA70	ASIAN SWAPNA
SRIRAMANA35MM	RANGA70MM
AARADHANA70	LAXMISHAMSHABAD
LAXMIKALA MOOSAPET	
AMB MALL	AAA MALL
APARNA MALL	VIJAYALAXMI
GPR MALL	PRASAD'S
CINEMART	MJR SQUARE
FORUM MALL | ICON | INORBIT | MALLAPUR IRRUMMANZIL | MUSARAMBAG | CENTRAL CENTRAL | PRESTONE | ATRIUM MALL | PRISM	
GVK | GSM | MP MALL | NECKLACE ASHOKA ONE | PRISM MALL	
CCPL | MANTRA | SUDHA | DSL LULU MALL	
SIVAGANGA | SHA | MCUBE | CINEPLANET CINESQUARE | MJR SQAURE | JP MALL	
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SHORT TAKES

TOP NAXAL SHOT DEAD IN KARNATAKA

GURURAJ A. PANIYADI | DC
UDUPI, NOV. 19

Karnataka's top Naxal leader Vikram Gowda, alias Srikanth (46), was killed in an encounter with the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) on Monday evening at Kabbinale, close to his native village Nadpal. State home minister G. Parameshwara said the ANF had been looking to apprehend Vikram Gowda for about 20 years.

According to inspector-general of police (IGP), Internal Security, D. Roopa Moudgil, Gowda used to lead the 'Kabini 2' group of the Naxalites. There were 61 cases against him, including that of murder and extortion, in Karnataka, and 19 cases in Kerala, she told reporters. Describing him as a "dreaded naxal", Parameshwara said he had escaped several times, including during "encounters" in the past.

MODI, SHAH TO ATTEND DGPs MEET IN ODISHA

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah will attend the All India three-day conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police 2024 to commence on November 29 in Odisha. A formal announcement from the Odisha government is expected soon.

The conference will feature deliberations on critical and futuristic themes in policing and national security. Key topics include combating cybercrime, integrating advanced technology into policing, addressing counter-terrorism challenges, tackling left-wing extremism, implementing prison reforms, and more.

Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Y.B. Khurania earlier announced that the event would run from November 29 to December 1 in Bhubaneswar.

SPACEX LAUNCHES ISRO'S 4,700 KG SATELLITE

Bengaluru, Nov. 19: The country's latest communication satellite, GSAT-N2 was successfully launched by billionaire Elon Musk-founded SpaceX from Cape Canaveral in the US, Isro's commercial arm NSIL has said.

The communication satellite will enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) said.

As the satellite was heavier than Isro's current launch capabilities, it had to opt for a foreign launch vehicle, top space scientists and former chiefs of the country's space agency said.

Speaking to mediapersons, former Isro chairperson K. Sivan said, "the satellite was a heavier one beyond the capability of Isro launch vehicles, that's why it has gone outside."

The 4,700kg GSAT-N2 High-throughput (HTS) satellite onboard a Falcon 9 rocket was injected into the desired orbit.

RAPE CASE: SC GRANTS BAIL TO ACTOR SIDDIQUE

New Delhi, Nov. 19: In a relief to veteran Malayalam actor Siddique, the Supreme Court on Tuesday granted him anticipatory bail in a rape case.

A bench of Justices Bela M. Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma said the veteran actor will have to deposit his passport and cooperate with the investigating officer in the probe.

The top court also took note of the fact that the complaint in the case was filed in August, eight years after the alleged incident took place in 2016.

"We deem it appropriate not to assign elaborate reasons, particularly considering the sensitivity of the case.

Questioning the complainant over the delay in lodging the complaint, the bench said, "She had the courage to make a post on Facebook in 2021 but could not go to police and lodge an FIR."

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Siddique, contended that his reputation is being tarnished and that he has not met the complainant since 2016.

Cong. mocks Modi in cash-for-vote drama

BJP's note jihad for votes, Uddhav takes a dig at Tawde

DC CORRESPONDENTS with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing the BJP of using money power in the Maharashtra polls, after a video surfaced in which party leader Vinod Tawde is being accused of distributing money to electors in Palghar on the eve of voting.

The Congress demanded the Election Commission take immediate action against the BJP leader.

"Modi Ji wants to make Maharashtra 'safe' with 'money power' and 'muscle power'! On one hand, there is a deadly attack on the former home minister (Anil Deshmukh) of the state, on the other hand, a senior BJP leader is caught red-handed with ₹5 crore in cash," Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

"The public will answer this by voting tomorrow," the Congress chief said.

Gandhi reposted a video posted by the Congress which allegedly showed money being distributed to voters in Palghar.

"Modiji, from whose SAFE did these 5 crores come from," he asked on X. "Who looted the public money and sent you in the tempo?" the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, referring to Modi's comments made during the Lok Sabha elections when he accused top businessmen of sending "tempos full of money" to the Congress top brass.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday took a "note jihad" jibe amid allegations of a senior BJP leader distributing money hours before voting for the Maharashtra assembly elections begins.

MAHA VOTING TODAY

AFTER A MONTH-LONG GRUELLING AND BITTER CAMPAIGNING, MAHARASHTRA IS ALL SET TO GO TO THE POLLS TODAY FOR ALL 288 CONSTITUENCIES.

TIME: 7 AM TO 6 PM.

1,00,186 POLLING BOOTHS

Boat rally at Mirkarwada Port to energise voters. — PTI

PARTY-WISE

MAHAYUTI: 149 BJP, 81 SHINDE-LED SHIV SENA, 59 AJIT PAWAR-LED

MVA: 101 CONGRESS, 95 SHIV SENA UBT, 86 NCP SP

IN FRAY: 4,136 TOTAL CANDIDATES; 2,086 INDEPENDENTS

VOTERS 9,70,25,119

5,00,22,739

4,69,96,279

PwD 6,41,425

Service voters from the armed forces 1,16,170

TRANSGENDER: 6,101

Thackeray demanded strict action by the Election Commission of India, stating that merely registering a case against Tawde won't suffice.

Hitting back at Gandhi, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said, "If ₹ 5 crore is found, he should produce it. Ensure all CCTV footages are looked up. In the meanwhile, after all the tamasha, BVA leader Hitendra Thakur took BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde out for lunch. In all this, Uddhav and Rahul Gandhi again come out looking like losers."

Soon after the video of Tawde caught up in a row with Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) chief Hitendra Thakur accusing him of distributing money to voters in Palghar surfaced, Congress leader Supriya Shrinate addressed a press conference at the party headquarters and demanded that Election Commission take immediate action against the BJP leader.

Over 250 workers booked in case

FROM PAGE 1

The police registered two FIRs against Tawde and around 250 BJP workers in connection with the alleged cash distribution at the hotel in Virar. While the first FIR against Tawde is for violation of the election Model Code of Conduct "by distributing cash and liquor", the second FIR against him is for violation of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, an official said. Section 126 stipulates that no person shall convene, hold, attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election during the period of 48 hours before the polling ends.

Tawde refuted the allegation and claimed he was

Vinod Tawde

ambushed by BVA supporters as part of a planned conspiracy. Interestingly, the BVA accusations came on a day when BVA candidate Suresh Padvi contesting from the Dahanu Assembly seat joined the BJP and announced his withdrawal from the election.

After the ruckus of over three hours, BVA chief Hitendra Thakur, his son Kshitij, Tawde and Naik decided to hold a joint press conference to tell their sides of the story.

SC QUESTIONS CENTRE ON DELAY IN DELIMITATION JOB IN ARUNACHAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The Supreme Court on Tuesday raised concerns over the delay in carrying out the delimitation exercise in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Assam, despite a 2020 presidential order rescinding the deferment of the process.

A bench comprising CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said "once the president rescinds the notification, that is enough" to proceed with the delimitation exercise. "Where does the government come in?"

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General K. M. Natraj, appearing for the Centre, to take instructions on the future course of action on the matter. "Take instructions on this, the exercise has to be doneit is a statutory mandate and therefore you have to comply with it, the CJI said.

The additional solicitor general said while consultations are underway for Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the ongoing violence in Manipur makes the situation there unconducive.

Shah: Govt brought down violence by 70 pc in 10 yrs

Gandhinagar, Nov. 19: Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre has successfully brought down violence in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Naxal-hit areas by 70 per cent in the last 10 years. Speaking at the inaugural event of the 50th All India Police Science Conference (AIPSC) at the Rashtriya Raksha University here, he expressed confidence that the coming decade will make the Indian criminal justice system the most scientific and fastest in the world.

"For years, three regions were considered very disturbed — Kashmir, North East, and Naxalite-affected areas. We have made significant improvements in the security of all these three regions. Comparing the data of the last 10 years with the period before that shows that we have been successful in reducing violence by 70 per cent," Shah said.

"I believe this is a very big achievement. A large number of people have wholeheartedly supported the government's efforts to reduce violence," even in terms of controlling the narcotics trade, union minister said. — PTI

Union home minister Amit Shah interacts with locals after inaugurating the Rajnikant Shroff Sarovar and Udyan in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. — PTI

Members ask Centre to reconsider AFSPA

FROM PAGE 1

"I consider that it has become constitutionally imperative on the part of yourself as the President of the Republic of India and the custodian of our Constitution to uphold the constitutional propriety and immediately intervene to ensure the protection of lives and properties of our own citizens in Manipur, as enshrined in the Constitution," Kharge said.

"I am confident that, through your intervention of your esteemed Office, the people of Manipur will again live peacefully in their homes in security with dignity," he wrote to the President.

The situation in the Manipur remained tensed on Tuesday despite the curfew. Members of various civil society organisations in Imphal West district continued to protest against the reimposition of AFSPA in parts of the state while in Churachandpur district, hundreds of people took to the streets with empty coffins, demanding justice for those killed in a gunfight with the security forces in Jiribam.

India, Italy unveil five-year strategic joint action plan

FROM PAGE 1

The bilateral talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni saw announcement of a Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29 that "will pursue joint collaborations, programmes and initiatives in key sectors of trade and investment, science and technology, new and emerging technologies, clean energy, space, defence, connectivity and people-to-people linkages". New Delhi said the two leaders — who are also known to share a strong camaraderie — were "aware of the unparalleled potential of the India Italy Strategic partnership" and the two sides decided to "negotiate a Defence Industrial Roadmap and focus on co-production and co-development of defence platforms and equipment".

In his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, Modi "commended the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation, including in strategic areas such as defense, space and civil nuclear energy, and committed to accelerating it further with a view to reinforcing their shared commitment to strategic autonomy". The two leaders also reviewed the progress of cooperation on India's National Museum project which is being assisted by France.

Modi also had a bilateral meeting with G20 Summit host and Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva. "Held talks with President Lula during the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Complimented him on various efforts of Brazil during their G20 Presidency. We took stock of the full range of bilateral ties between our nations and reaffirmed our commitment to improving cooperation in sectors like energy, biofuels, defence, agriculture and more," Modi said.

He also had another bilateral meeting after that with the President of another South American nation, Chile. "Met the President of Chile Gabriel Boric Font in Rio de Janeiro. India's ties with Chile are getting stronger across various sectors. Our talks focused on how to deepen relations in pharmaceuticals, technology, space and more. It is gladdening to see Ayurveda gaining popularity in Chile. This is also a sector where ties can gain momentum," Modi said.

Modi also held his first meeting with the newly elected Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during which the "two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties in the framework of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". Similarly, Modi also had his first meeting with his Portuguese counterpart Luís Montenegro.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets his Italy counterpart Giorgia Meloni ahead of their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. — PTI

Delhi urges London to extradite Mallya, Nirav

Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 19: India will open two new consulates in Belfast and Manchester in the UK, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced in the first meeting with his British counterpart Keir Starmer even as he called for extradition of fugitive Indian businessmen from the UK.

Following the talks, held on the sidelines of the G20 summit late on Monday, Starmer said the negotiations for an India-UK free trade pact will be relaunched in the new year, in remarks that appeared to dispel anxiety about his Labour government's approach to the proposed trade deal.

The Indian side pressed for extradition of fugitive Indian businessmen Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi with Modi underlining the importance of addressing the issue of economic offenders from India in the UK.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders after Starmer assumed charge as the UK prime minister in July succeeding Rishi Sunak.

On the ambitious trade deal, the two prime ministers hoped that a balanced, mutually beneficial and forward looking free trade agreement (FTA) will be firmed up while addressing remaining issues to mutual satisfaction, according to an Indian government readout. — PTI

India, China discuss new steps in relations

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

While no formal structured bilateral meeting has taken place as yet between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Rio, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar met Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, who is a member of the politburo of the Communist Party of China, during which both foreign ministers "noted the progress in the recent disengagement in the India-China border areas". Both sides also discussed the "resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage, data sharing on trans-border rivers, direct flights between India and China and media exchanges", according to a statement issued by New Delhi on Tuesday evening.

The EAM also told the Chinese ministry clearly that India is "against unilateral approaches to

S. Jaishankar

establish dominance", an obvious reference to border actions by the Chinese military four and a half years ago. "It was agreed that a meeting of the Special Representatives and of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism will take place soon," New Delhi said in its statement. It added: "The ministers "recognised that the disengagement in our border areas had contributed to the maintenance of peace and tranquility. The discussions focused on the next steps in India-China relations… The two ministers felt that it was imperative that the focus should be on stabilising ties, managing differences and taking the next steps."

Putin to visit India next year

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday was quoted saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin may visit India early next year. "We are looking forward to the visit. The dates will be mutually worked out soon," Peskov was quoted as saying in Moscow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Russia twice within four months this year.

President Putin had last visited New Delhi about three years ago in December, 2021, before the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war in February, 2022. Modi had visited Moscow on a bilateral visit in July this year, his first to Russia since the outbreak of the conflict. He had visited Russia for the second time this year just last month to attend the BRICS Summit in the city of Kazan.

Just last week, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov had visited New Delhi and had held talks with external affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar under the aegis of the 25th meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).

POLLUTION | CRISIS

Judges told to allow virtual hearings wherever possible in National Capital Region

Delhi govt wants cloud seeding, seeks PM's intervention

AVINASH PRABHAKAR JHA AND SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

As a thick gray haze choked Delhi for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, with pollution levels remaining alarmingly high at 488 in the "severe plus" category, city environment minister Gopal Rai said he has written to Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav four times, seeking urgent clearances for cloud seeding to artificially induce rain that could help combat the escalating pollution crisis.

Rai said, "It is disappointing that we received no response over the first letter we wrote to the Union environment minister on August 30 regarding cloud seeding to tackle this emergency. We wrote again on October 10 and then on October 23, but still no reply".

The minister also said a decision on implementing "work from home" measures and the "odd-even" scheme will be taken soon to mitigate the crisis. Calling the current situation a medical emergency, Rai emphasised the need for collective action and urged the Centre to convene an emergency meeting to tackle worsening air quality.

He also asserted it was the moral responsibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the matter. "People, including children and senior citizens, are struggling to breathe and we deeply regret this situation. This is a time of medical emergency, and we all need to work together to address the situation," he added.

A day after the Supreme Court directed all NCR governments to ensure that GRAP-4 measures are implemented and stay in place till the AQI touches 300, Rai said the AAP government was monitoring the situation and will quickly decide on all possible preventive measures in the wake of toxic air pollution.

He said that significant restrictions on vehicles under GRAP-4 have already been imposed. "We are analysing the impact of these measures. If the analysis shows a positive outcome, we will take further decisions," he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said all judges have been asked to allow virtual hearings wherever possible in view of the severe pollution levels in the national capital region.

Pollution is getting out of control, Sibal said.

An anti-smog gun sprays mist to mitigate smoggy conditions, in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

https://www.snapfrom.com https://www.americadollars.com/

SHORT TAKES

BRAZILIAN COPS NAB FIVE IN PLOT TO KILL PREZ LULA

Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Nov. 19: Brazilian police on Tuesday arrested five people suspected of involvement in an alleged coup attempt in which they planned to kill then president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his vice-president weeks before they took office.

Most of those investigated are military personnel with Special Forces training, the police said in a statement.

"A detailed operational plan called 'Green and Yellow Dagger' was identified, which would be executed on December 15, 2022.

TWO BALTIC SEA CABLES CUT IN LAST 48 HOURS

Stockholm, Nov. 19: Two telecommunications cables cut in the Baltic Sea in 48 hours have prompted Nordic and German officials to say that they are suspecting "sabotage" and "hybrid warfare" stemming from Russia.

On Monday, Finnish operator Cinia reported that the "C-Lion1 submarine cable" connecting Helsinki and the German port of Rostock had been cut for unknown reasons.

The break was traced to a location south of the island of Oland in Swedish waters, some 700 km (435 miles) from Helsinki.

CHINA CAR HITS CROWD, MANY CHILDREN HURT

Beijing, Nov. 19: Several children were injured when an SUV rammed into groups of parents and students outside a primary school in China's Hunan province on Tuesday, the third incident of killing of civilians within a fortnight in the country. The incident took place in Changde city at around 7:30 am local time.

The casualty count is not clear and authorities are yet to clarify if it was an accident or a deliberate attack. According to the state-run Xinhua news agency, the injured have been rushed to a hospital. Further investigation is underway.

TRUMP SAYS HE'S NAMING DUFFY AS TRANSPORT SECY

West Palm Beach, Nov. 19: President-elect Donald Trump said he is naming former Wisconsin Rep Sean Duffy as his nominee to be transportation secretary, as he continues to roll out picks for his Cabinet.

Trump said in a statement, "Sean will use his experience and the relationships he has built to maintain and rebuild our Nation's Infrastructure, and fulfil our Mission of ushering in The Golden Age of Travel, focusing on Safety, Efficiency, and Innovation." He added, "Importantly, he will greatly elevate the Travel Experience for all Americans!"

Duffy left Congress in 2019, and is now co-host of a show on Fox Business, the "Bottom Line". Before beginning his political career, he appeared on the MTV reality show "The Real World".

Kyiv fires US missiles, Putin lowers mark for nukes' use

Ukraine fires ATACMS missile on 1,000th day of war

Moscow, Nov. 19: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday lowered the threshold for a nuclear strike in response to a broader range of conventional attacks, and Moscow said Ukraine had struck deep inside Russia with US-made ATACMS long-range missiles.

Russia's military said on Tuesday that Ukraine fired US-supplied long-range missiles at a military facility in the Bryansk border region, in what would be the first attack since Washington authorised the use of its weapons.

"At 03:25 am (0025 GMT), the enemy struck a site in the Bryansk region with six ballistic missiles. According to confirmed data, US-made ATACMS tactical missiles were used," the defence ministry said.

Ukraine had for months been demanding that Washington let it use the longer-range ATACMS missiles to hit sites on Russian territory.

Putin approved the change days after two US officials and a source familiar with the decision said on Sunday that US President Joe Biden's administration allowed Ukraine to use US-made weapons to strike deep into Russia.

Russia had been warning the West for months that if Washington allowed Ukraine to fire United States, British and French missiles deep into Russia, Moscow would consider those Nato members to be directly involved in the war in Ukraine.

The updated Russian nuclear doctrine, establishing a framework for conditions under which Putin could order a strike from the world's biggest nuclear arsenal, was approved by him on Tuesday, according to a published decree.

People visit the makeshift memorial to pay tributes to the Ukrainian and foreign fighters, on the 1,000th day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the Independence Square in Kyiv, on Tuesday. — *AFP*

Analysts said that the biggest change was that Russia could consider a nuclear strike in response to a conventional attack on Russia or its ally Belarus that "created a critical threat to their sovereignty and (or) their territorial integrity".

"The big picture is that Russia is lowering the threshold for a nuclear strike in response to a possible conventional attack," said Alexander Graef, a senior researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg.

The previous doctrine, contained in a 2020 decree, said Russia may use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatened the state's existence.

The United States National Security Council said it had not seen any reason to adjust the United States nuclear posture. — *Agencies*

2025 will decide victor: Zelenskyy

Kyiv, Nov. 19: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that 2025 will be decisive in determining who wins the war, in an address to Parliament on the 1,000th day of the Russian invasion.

Zelenskyy, presenting a "resilience plan" to Ukraine with the war at a decisive moment, spoke after Washington gave Kyiv a long-awaited approval to fire US missiles into Russian territory.

"In the decisive moments — and they are coming next year — we must not allow anyone in the world to doubt the resilience of our entire state. And at this stage, it is being decided who will prevail," Zelenskyy told Ukrainian lawmakers.

"This battle is not only about Pokrovsk, Kupiansk or any other city, town or village, not only about this or that region of ours. This battle is about the whole of Ukraine, the battle is about the whole of Europe, about order or chaos for the whole world," he said.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Moscow has significantly ramped up aerial attacks on the Ukrainian cities ahead of winter. — *AFP*

HK jails scholar Benny, 44 more

Hong Kong, Nov. 19: Hong Kong legal scholar Benny Tai was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Tuesday for subversion, the longest sentence handed out so far under the national security law.

Benny Tai

Tai and 44 others were previously found guilty in Hong Kong's largest national security trial, where they stood accused of organising an informal poll to coordinate pro-democracy figures to win an electoral majority.

The case was the largest prosecuted under the city's 2020 national security law, imposed by Beijing after massive, sometimes violent pro-democracy protests the previous year.

The group — made up of some of the city's best-known political opposition figures — was arrested in early 2021, and many have been detained since. "Hong Kong has fallen for three years and eight months, how can I feel?" said businessman Jerome Lau. — *AFP*

US envoy: Opportunity to end Israel-Hezbollah war

Beirut, Nov. 19: A senior US mediator said on Tuesday there was a "real opportunity" to end the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah and that gaps were narrowing, signalling progress in Washington's efforts to clinch a ceasefire.

White House envoy Amos Hochstein spoke in Beirut after talks with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a day after the Lebanese government and Iran-backed Hezbollah agreed to a US truce proposal, albeit with some comments on the content.

"I came back because we have a real opportunity to bring this conflict to an end," Hochstein said at a press conference after the meeting. "It is now within our grasp. As the window is now, I hope the coming days yield a resolute decision." Hochstein's mission marks a last-ditch attempt by the outgoing US administration to clinch a ceasefire as diplomacy to end the Gaza war appears totally adrift.

Israeli energy minister Eli Cohen said "there are talks regarding an arrangement with Lebanon" but reiterated that Israel would only agree if all its demands were met, including pushing Hezbollah away from the border.

The diplomatic efforts coincide with an intensification of the war, with Israel stepping up its strikes on Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs and striking three times in the capital in the last three days.

The conflict spiralled into all-out war in September when Israel went on the offensive, pounding wide areas of Lebanon with airstrikes, sending troops into the south, and killing many Hezbollah heads. including its leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Hochstein, who has tried and failed to broker a truce several times over the last year, said "this is a moment of decision-making", but added "it's ultimately the decision of the parties to reach a conclusion to this conflict." — *Reuters*

Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Vikas Pradhikaran
Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector-19
Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Raipur - 492002, Chhattisgarh.
Tel No: +91 7712512500; Fax No.: +91 7712512400.
Website: www.navaraipuratalnagar.com

नवा रायपुर अटल नगर

Notice Inviting Tender (2nd Call)

NIT No. 9217/R-22/PRJ/NRANVP/2024 **Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Dated: 08-11-2024**

Online Tenders are invited for **"Allotment of plots for the Development of Residential projects (Flatted) at Plot - B20, Sector - 15 of Nava Raipur Atal Nagar."** Details of the projects are as below:

S. No.	System Tender No.	Location of Project	Plot Area (In Sq.mt) approx.	Reserved Land Premium (INR/Sq. Mt.)	EMD (INR Lakhs)
1	161006	**Residential Flatted Development, Plot - B20, Sector - 15**	3,723.3008	5,467.00	21.00

Tenderers shall download tender from e-Procurement website. The tender processing fee is INR 5,900/- Only (Including GST) per tender.
- Date and Time of Pre-bid meeting - **at 12:00 PM on 18th November 2024**
- Last Date for Online submission of Tender - up to **03:00 PM** on or before **29th November 2024**
- Last Date for Hard copy submission of Technical Bid - up to **03:00 PM** on or before **02nd December 2024**
- Opening of Technical Bid after **03:30 PM** on **02nd December 2024.**

The details of tender and terms and conditions are available on the e-Procurement website **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in**

Any amendment/modification in the tender documents, will only be uploaded on the e-Procurement website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

Note: If the date of Hard copy submission falls on public holiday, then the next working day shall be considered.

(Approved by CEO) Sd/- **Manager (Estate)**
S-42142/1 **NRANVP, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar**

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/26/2024-25, Dtd: 14-11-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : 50/24/0662A/OT/117/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 29-11-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty : Electronic LC gate Telephone system (Master) as per RDSO Spec.No RDSO/SPN/TC/51/2021(Rev.1.0) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty- 19 Nos Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty -54 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), (iii) Qty- 46 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD NFR (West Bengal), (iv) Qty-69 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR(Assam). P.L.No- 50232368.

Sl.No.:2; Tender No. : 30/24/5110/OT/118/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 02-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Stiffener Plate Part of Front Support plate for Balance Draft Gear as per RDSO Drawing No RDSO/CG/DRG/24034(With hardware items HT Hex Head Bolt M16x45, Hexagonal Castle Nut M 16 & Split Pin 4x40) and confirming to RDSO Specification as per Drawing No RDSO/CG/DRG/24034 and RDSO/2011/CG-03 (Rev.03) or Latest (To be procured from RDSO source for CBC). [Warranty Period: 84 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty: 4678 Nos. for SSE/CLS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L.No-336703190012.

Sl.No.:3; Tender No. : 10/24/4253A/OT/119/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 11-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Brake Rigging Kit Consisting of 16 items as per DLW Drg. No K-1702009, Alt-g or latest and to DLW Pt.No-17021182 as per Annexure-A and Annexure-B. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty-5 Nos for New Guwahati DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty-15 Nos for Siliguri Jn. DIESEL DEPOT, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No-16021186.

Sl.No.:4; Tender No. : 60/24/5100/OT/120/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 09-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, installation & commissioning of Multi Track Surface Type Traverser, Capacity 80 Ton, along with DSL and support masts, concomitant accessories required for making the machine fully functional, additional spares as per Schedule I, and spares for two years normal operation and maintenance as per Clause 5 of Section -V. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage insp: No, Stages :0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-659018400010. 2) Cost of comprehensive AMC for five year after the warranty as per clause 17. [Warranty Period: years, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10% Start After Year:2] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages:-0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L. No-65901845. (3) Consumables as per clause 6 of section-V with breakup of individual items as applicable. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages:0]. Qty-1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L.:- 65901845.

Sl.No.:5; Tender No. : 30/24/5111/OT/121/2024-25:
Closing/Opening Date: 06-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: SET OF TPU RING CONSISTING OF 02 ITEMS for LHB AC Coaches & LHB Non-AC coaches (With Air Springs in Secondary suspension) AS PER ANNEXURE-1, Make/Brand : Approved Vendors for BLW item ID 2201253 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency :TPI, Stage insp: No, Stages :0]. Qty: 441 Set for SSE/BRS/ Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-331003400015.

Sl.No.:6; Tender No. : 30/24/5106/OT/122/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 16-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: [S-VEL Speed Sensor FTR TIL No FT0053670-101 for LHB Coaches [Warranty Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty- 60 Nos for SSE/ABS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.-33503618.

Sl.No.:7; Tender No. : 30/24/5112/OT/123/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 12-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: SET OF TPU RING CONSISTING OF 04 ITEMS LHB Non-AC Coaches (With Coil Springs in Secondary suspension) AS PER ANNEXURE-1. Make/Brand : Approved vendors for BLW item ID.2201253 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. (i)Qty-126 Set for SSE/BRS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-331007010013.

Sl.No.:8; Tender No. : 77/24/5012/OT/124/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 12-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply and Apply of Anti Graffiti Clear Coating for Exterior of Coaches (LHB and ICF type), conforming to RDSO Specification No. M & C/PCN/127-2020 (Rev.2.0) or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty-400 Nos for SEE/CPS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-779005280021.

Sl.No.:9; Tender No. : 30/24/5107/OT/125/2024-25;
Closing/Opening Date: 31-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Primary Spring(OUTER) for Power car (LWLRRM), AC Three Tier Sleeper/EOG (LWACCN) to RCF Drg. No.1277142 Ver.01R Mat Spec.- RDSO/2017/CG-01(Rev-2) corr-01 [Warranty Period: 60 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty- 728 Nos for SSE/BSS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 33500368.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (**www.ireps.gov.in**) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

CESS THE COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC SUPPLY SOCIETY LTD SIRCILLA.

e-Tender Notice CESS/PUR/EPROC/STN/MAT-06/2024-25.

E-Tenders invited from Manufactures & experienced suppliers in TRANSCO/DISCOM'S /CESS for supply of Ms Bolts, Nuts & Watchers, LT3-Ph 3 Wire Cross Arms,11KV Tapping Cross Arms&11KV "V" Cross Arms at destination stores sircilla. The bids submission online closed at 5.00 PM on 26.11.2024. Opening of tender starts at 11.00 AM on 20.11.2024. Visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in, email:cesssirsilla@gmail.com, Mob:94408-14058/61.

Sd/- Managing Director CESS Ltd., Sircilla.

DIPR R.O. No. : 669-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Notice No. 24-27_AMC of ET Machines **Date 15.11.2024**

Description of work	Estimated Cost	Completion period	Earnest Money
AMC of 02 Nos. End Tapering Machines at RSK/STLI	₹9,31,41,843/- (Rs. Nine Crore Thirty one Lakh, Fourty one thousand Eight hundred Fourty Three only)	36 Months from the date of commencement of work	₹6,15,800/- (Rs. Six Lakh, Fifteen thousand Eight hundred only)

1. E-Tender will be closed at **15.00** hrs. on **11.12.2024.** E-Tender Notice is also available on Indian Railway E-Tender website **www.ireps.gov.in. 2.** For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tender website **www.ireps.gov.in. 3.** Eligibility criteria: The experience of similar work etc as defined and shown in the condition of tender for minimum eligibility criteria and other conditions shall be made available in tender documents and on Indian Railway E-Tendering website **www.ireps.gov.in. 4.** Tenderers using the tender document downloaded from the website should watch the website for the corrigendum / addendum to the NIT/E-Tender document, if any, as there will not be any separate communication for the same. **Note:-** Tenderer shall submit documentary proof in regard to fulfilling all the above eligibility criteria along with their offer which has, been completed by them before the publication date of NIT. The offers of tenderer who do not meet the eligibility criteria as mentjioned above shall not be considered. **1992/24 FA**

@ CPRONCR North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

GeM Bid Number- GEM/2024/8/5611497 Dt.18.11.2024

E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 for the following work:

Sl. No.	Description	Description
1	**Tender Notice Number and Date**	**GEM/2024/B/5611497 Dt.18.11.2024**
2	**Name of Work**	Pests and Rodents Control in Railway passenger coaches and Rodent control in yard and premises of Coimbatore & Erode coaching depots for a period of Four years.
3	**Estimate Value**	Rs. 2,55,65,089.42/-
4	**Tender Closing Date and Time**	10-12-2024 at 12:00:00
5	**Tender Opening Date and Time**	10-12-2024 at 12:30:00
6	**Web Address**	**http://www.gem.gov.in**

The Tender has been uploaded on the GeM portal **http://www.gem.gov.in** on 18.11.2024 As **Custom Bid.**

The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the GeM portal **"www.gem.gov.in".**

For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in".** For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in"**

Divisional Environmental Housekeeping Manager, Southern Railway, Salem - 636 005

Climate negotiators seek to break COP29 impasse

Baku, Nov. 19: Negotiators sought on Tuesday to break a deadlock at UN climate talks after G20 leaders backed the need for "trillions" of dollars for poorer countries but left key sticking points unresolved. Ministers at the COP29 conference in Azerbaijan had been eagerly waiting for the G20 meeting in Rio de Janeiro to issue a declaration that might jump-start the stalled negotiations.

While the lack of a phrase calling for "transitioning away from fossil fuels" disappointed activists, the statement on climate finance was cautiously welcomed at the sports stadium hosting the talks.

"G20 delegations now have their marching orders for here in Baku," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said. "We urgently need all nations to bypass the posturing and move swiftly towards common ground, across all issues," the climate chief said. — *AFP*

The National Farmers Union members attend a protest against the planned changes to tax rules, in London, on Tuesday. Volatile weather exacerbated by climate change, global instability and the upheaval caused by Britain's 2020 departure from the European Union have all added to the burden on UK farmers. — *AP*

HELP RESOLVE ISSUE OF EU TARIFFS ON CHINESE EVs, XI URGES SCHOLZ

Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 19: Chinese President Xi Jinping told German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday he hopes Germany can help Europe and China resolve the issue of tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles as soon as possible

Xi said China is ready to work with Germany to consolidate an overall strategic partnership, before bringing up European Union tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, a major contentious issue in the EU-China ties. — *Reuters*

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LIVE RICH
FINANCIAL Chronicle
HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 20 NOVEMBER 2024

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	77,578.38	0.31
Nifty 50	23,518.50	0.28
S&P 500*	5,893.62	0.00
Dollar (₹)	84.41	0.01
Pound Sterling (₹)	106.59	-0.00
Euro (₹)	89.06	-0.11
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	75,478▲431	0.57
Brent crude ($/bbl)*	73.23	-0.10
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.811	-0.01
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.371	-0.043

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Paytm UPI enters UAE, Singapore, France, Mauritius

One97 Communications (OCL), that owns Paytm brand, on Tuesday said Paytm users will be able to make UPI payments at select international locations, including popular spots in the UAE, Singapore, France, Mauritius, Bhutan, and Nepal. The move allows users to conveniently pay for all use cases including shopping, dining, and local experiences abroad using UPI through their Paytm app, according to a release.

Havells India to invest on new refrigerator unit

Consumer electrical goods maker Havells India Ltd on Tuesday said it will invest ₹480 crore to set up a facility for manufacturing refrigerators at Ghiloth in Rajasthan. The company, which had in August last year stated that it was exploring the possibility to set up a new facility to manufacture refrigerators in Ghiloth, said it has "now decided to set up the facility" at the place.

IndusInd, BFIL to back Centre's FPO promotion

The Union agriculture ministry tied up with IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited — in a first of such collaboration with corporate entities — to support the formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). Under the deal, which aimed at rural empowerment, IBL and BFIL will provide technical support and deploy experts in the areas of agriculture/horticulture production.

Pure EV ties up with Clarion for global foray

Electric two-wheeler maker PURE EV on Tuesday said it has partnered with Clarion Investment LLC's manufacturing subsidiary Arva Electric to expand presence in the Middle East and African markets. Under this deal, PURE EV said, it will supply Arva Electric with an initial batch of 50,000 units of its flagship models — the ecoDryft and eTryst X — over the next couple of years, which will later be scaled up to 60,000 units annually.

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Tomatoes, onions, gold fuel retail inflation: CEA

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI NOV 19

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday stated that the recent rise in Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation is primarily driven by a select few commodities.

Nageswaran explained that excluding tomatoes, onions, potatoes, and gold and silver from the CPI calculation reveals a much lower headline inflation rate of just 4.2 per cent for October.

While these items together account for only 3.4 per cent of the total CPI basket, they contribute more than one-third of the 6.2 per cent inflation rate recorded for the month.

Speaking at the State Bank of India's (SBI) Annual Business and Economic Conclave, Nageswaran said, "We know that CPI is heavily influenced by a few commodities. If you exclude tomatoes, onions, potatoes, gold, and silver, the headline CPI rate is 4.2 per cent. These items, which constitute a 3.4 per cent weight in the CPI basket, collectively account for more than one-third of the 6.2 per cent inflation rate observed in October."

In the Economic Survey, the CEA had proposed that India's inflation-targeting framework should exclude food inflation, given its unique drivers.

He argued that monetary policy is primarily a short-term tool for managing aggregate demand and is not well-suited to address supply-side shocks. Since food inflation is largely driven by such supply shocks, it should be considered separately.

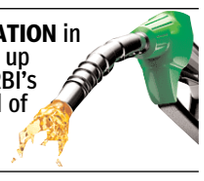
However, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das believes that due to the significant share of food in the consumption basket, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cannot overlook food inflation.

PRICEY ITEMS

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran argues minus tomatoes, onions, potatoes, and gold and silver, inflation falls to just **4.2%**

Just these four items together account for only 3.4 per cent of the total inflation, showing skewed nature of inflation calculation.

RETAIL INFLATION in October shot up beyond the RBI's comfort level of six per cent inflation.



IN THE ECONOMIC SURVEY, the CEA had suggested excluding food items in inflation policy, but RBI disagreed.

Banks must offer options in insurance: IRDAI chief

Regulator asks people to use digital platform Bima Sugam

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI NOV. 19

A day after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged concerns about the mis-selling of insurance products by banks, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman Debasish Panda on Tuesday emphasised that banks must offer product options to their customers, ensuring no mis-selling or forced selling occurs.

He noted that the Bima Sugam platform could help mitigate the issue of mis-selling to some extent.

Speaking at the State Bank of India's (SBI) Annual Business & Economic Conclave, Panda remarked that the bancassurance channel is a highly useful and low-cost distribution method. However, he acknowledged that several issues have recently emerged within the system and urged banks to prioritise their core business of lending.

"I believe there is merit in this (bancassurance) system, but we must approach it with care and caution so that you don't neglect your primary activity and instead focus solely on selling insurance," he said.

Panda highlighted the need for all stakeholders to collaborate and work towards restoring public confidence in the insurance system.

Bima Sugam, he explained, will be a digital platform showcasing a range of insurance products for customers to choose from. It will be integrated with Aadhaar, the account aggregator framework, and UPI. Buying, selling, and claim servicing will all be facilitated through the platform, Panda added.

On Monday, Sitharaman had also advised lenders to avoid excessive focus on selling insurance and instead concentrate on core banking activities.

"I wish to draw the attention of bank boards to this matter: the sale of insurance by banks has raised concerns about instances of mis-selling. This practice has, in some cases, indirectly contributed to the cost of borrowing for customers. Therefore, banks must reevaluate this approach, focus on their core banking activities, and refrain from burdening customers with unnecessary insurance products," Sitharaman stated.

INSURANCE REGULATOR IRDAI chairman Debasish Panda highlighted the need for all stakeholders to collaborate and work towards restoring public confidence in the insurance system

WHAT DOES MISSELLING OF INSURANCE MEAN?

MISSELLING OF INSURANCE PRODUCTS OCCURS WHEN AN INSURANCE POLICY IS SOLD TO A CUSTOMER BY PROVIDING MISLEADING INFORMATION, WITHHOLDING CRITICAL DETAILS, OR PRESSURING CUSTOMERS INTO PURCHASING POLICIES THAT MAY NOT SERVE THEIR BEST INTERESTS.

EXAMPLES OF MISSELLING

INAPPROPRIATE PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS: Selling a life insurance policy to someone with no dependents or an investment-linked policy to someone seeking basic health coverage. Or selling an endowment policy to a youngster seeking higher capital appreciation.

MISREPRESENTATION OF BENEFITS

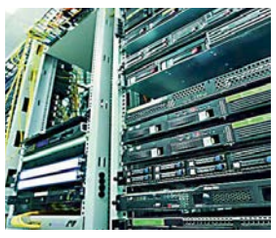
EXAGGERATING policy benefits or failing to disclose critical exclusions and limitations. Selling ULIPs (unit linked insurance products) as a pure equity product offered by mutual funds.

PRESSURE SALES TACTICS

USING HIGH-PRESSURE techniques to push customers into buying policies without making them don't fully understand it.

HIDING COSTS OR FEES

Not informing customers about hidden fees, premiums, or penalties for early withdrawal or cancellation.



RMZ CORP TO INVEST $1.7 BN TO BUILD 2 DATA CENTRES

Bengaluru, Nov. 19: Privately-held Indian developer RMZ Corp. is spending $1.7 billion in building two data centres as companies rush to develop infrastructure to capitalise on the artificial intelligence boom.

The data centres will help the Bengaluru-based real estate company diversify its business portfolio and gain from the soaring demand for data centre services. "We wanted to reduce our dependencies on a single asset class and a single business," RMZ Corp. chairman Manoj Menda said in an interview.

India's data centre industry is expected to see $5.7 billion investment by 2026 amid greater adoption of AI services across sectors, according to a report by real estate broker Jones Lang LaSalle in June. India will need to boost its data centre infrastructure for it to become an influential player in the generative AI space, Siemens AG's Chief Technology Officer Peter Koerte said last week.

While Nvidia Corp. is partnering with Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani to build out AI infrastructure, billionaire Gautam Adani plans to spend $6 billion on data centres.

RMZ will build a data centre each at Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra and Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The site at Navi Mumbai is partly operational and work at the Chennai site will commence shortly, Menda said. *— Bloomberg*

Air pollution hits 20% Delhi trade

FC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 19

Air pollution in Delhi has led to an estimated 20 per cent loss in trade, according to a traders' body.

Rising pollution levels are deterring consumers from venturing out, especially in crowded markets, leading to a significant decline in footfall. Measures such as odd-even schemes and curbs on vehicular movement reduce accessibility to commercial areas, directly affecting businesses. Restrictions on diesel vehicles, including trucks, disrupt supply chains, delay the transportation of goods to markets, and increase logistical costs, according to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in key commercial areas are experiencing sharp revenue declines due to reduced customer visits and supply chain issues. Festival and wedding sales are also facing heavy losses, as pollution curbs often coincide with peak sales periods.

Businesses incur additional costs for air purifiers, masks, and other measures to ensure safer environments for employees and customers.

Health problems caused by pollution have resulted in reduced workforce efficiency and absenteeism, further affecting productivity.

Migrant labourers, who form a significant part of Delhi's workforce, are also leaving the city due to deteriorating living conditions, the report stated.

According to a recent report by the Asian Development Bank, India is projected to witness a 24.7 per cent loss of gross domestic product (GDP) due to climate change by 2070.

India Inc seeks rejig in tax rates ahead of Union Budget

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

India Inc on Tuesday sought more pre-budget sops from the finance ministry, particularly tax rate rationalisation. Industry bodies have submitted their memoranda to the finance ministry, addressing direct tax issues and other related matters.

Seeking the rationalisation of tax deducted at source (TDS) rates, industry body Assocham, in its pre-budget memorandum to the finance ministry, has advocated for a single or uniform TDS rate of 1-2 per cent for all payments made to resident assessees. This, they argue, would reduce litigation over interpretational issues and ensure easier tax compliance.

"Criminal proceedings should apply only when the taxpayer has enriched themselves at the government's expense, and not in cases where certain payments or benefits are provided without applying TDS. We expect tax reforms aimed at reducing litigation and ensuring easier and better compliance to be part of the Union Budget for 2025-26," said Assocham president Sanjay Nayar.

Industry leaders believe that modifications should be introduced to allow taxpayers to make additional claims during assessment proceedings.

FICCI electric vehicle committee chairman Sulajja Firodia called for a cut in GST on batteries and charging services to keep electric vehicles competitive and encourage customer adoption. "We are recommending to the GST Council the rationalisation of GST on EV-related areas."

RBI PUTS PEOPLE ON ALERT ON DEEP FAKE GOV. VIDEOS

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday warned the public about deep fake videos of the governor being circulated on social media platforms to lure people into investing in certain schemes.

The videos on social media claim that the RBI has launched or supports specific investment schemes. These videos use advanced technological tools to mislead people into investing their money in such schemes, the central bank warned.

"RBI clarifies that its officials are not involved in or supportive of any such activities and that these videos are fake. RBI does not provide any financial investment advice. Members of the public are, therefore, cautioned against engaging with or falling prey to such deep fake videos circulated on social media," said the central bank.

Global funds eye India IPOs

Mumbai, Nov. 19: Foreign investors are pulling record sums from Indian shares since October and piling into initial public offerings in search for better returns.

Their primary market purchases, including IPOs and preferential share sales, hit $11.5 billion this year, surpassing the previous record set in 2021, according to data published by Central Depository Services Ltd. In contrast, global funds have sold more than $13 billion on the exchanges, helping send the main NSE Nifty 50 index into correction.

"Foreign investors are investing in new papers since they have the ability to generate returns at a much faster pace," said Deven Choksey, managing director at DRChoksey FinServ. "Selling in the secondary market, meanwhile, is driven by expensive valuations."

India has become a hotspot for dealmaking, with companies raising a record $28.4 billion from IPOs and primary share offerings this year, according to data compiled by primedatabase.com. That's more than twice the capital raised in 2023.

Enthusiasm for new listings has carried over to their post-listing performance, with IPOs having risen by an average of 24 per cent on their first trading day this year, the data show. The Nifty has fallen more than 10 per cent since its peak but still trades near 20 times its 12-month forward earnings. "Our clients think now is a great time to get into India," said Mike Sell, head of global emerging market equities at London-based Alquity Investment Management Ltd. *(Bloomberg)*

India seeks fair free trade deals: Goyal

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday stated that India seeks equity, balance, and fair trade while negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs). He also emphasised that India engages in FTAs with countries that are transparent, open, and have economic systems aligned with India's.

"Fulfilling the basic amenities of citizens has been the government's priority over the last decade, empowering Indians to aspire big and ensuring that India leverages its 4-D advantage: democracy, demographic dividend, demand, and decisive leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the minister said.

Goyal highlighted the significant opportunities India offers as it progresses towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047, making it the world's best business destination. The country has implemented FTAs with nations such as Australia and the UAE and is currently negotiating similar agreements with the UK and the European Union.

IHCL TO LINE UP ₹5,000 CR FOR DOUBLING HOTELS

New Delhi, Nov. 19: Tata Group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) has earmarked capex of ₹5,000 crore to double its number of properties to over 700 by 2030, its Managing Director and CEO Puneet Chhatwal said.

The company is also looking to double its consolidated revenue to ₹15,000 crore in the next five years, Chhatwal said.

"We started our aspiration, saying that it will be the most iconic and most profitable (hospitality) company from South Asia. Having achieved that, we've just tweaked it a bit, and we say we will be the most valued, most responsible and profitable hospitality ecosystem in South Asia," he said. *— PTI*

GROWTH | METER **Hospitality sector opened 30 new hotels with 2,000 rooms in September quarter**

Hyderabad sees fastest growth in hospitality

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 19

The hospitality sector saw 30 hotels with approximately 2,000 keys opening in the September quarter. The quarter registered double-digit year-on-year growth as well as sequential revenue growth. Hyderabad recorded the fastest growth at 23.6 per cent.

Around 30 branded hotels with a total of 1,988 keys opened during the quarter. Of these, approximately 80 per cent were located in Tier II and III cities, including Tirupati, Udaipur, Ranchi, and Mussoorie. Karnataka had the highest number of hotel openings, with 280 keys.

In Q3 2024, 96 branded hotels comprising 10,686 rooms were signed. Around 12 of these hotels were conversions of existing properties, accounting for 11 per cent of the total signed inventory. Tamil Nadu led in hotel signings, with 1,247 keys.

Meanwhile, the Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) for the hospitality sector recorded 10.8 per cent year-on-year growth in Q3 2024, along with a sequential growth of 2 per cent, according to JLL data.

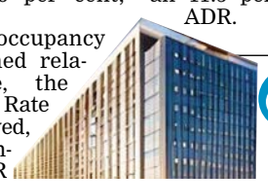
Hyderabad posted the highest RevPAR growth at 23.6 per cent, followed by Chennai and Mumbai, which recorded year-on-year growth of 17.7 per cent and 16.8 per cent, respectively.

Although occupancy levels remained relatively stable, the Average Daily Rate (ADR) improved, leading to higher RevPAR across major markets. In Hyderabad, hotel occupancy levels were flat at 0.7 per cent, while ADR grew by 16.2 per cent. Similarly, Mumbai saw stable occupancy at 0.1 per cent and a 15.7 per cent increase in ADR. Chennai, however, experienced a 4.7 per cent growth in occupancy and an 11.5 per cent rise in ADR.

According to HVS Anarock, ADR across cities in September ranged between ₹7,300 and ₹7,500, showing both yearly and sequential gains.

The fourth quarter of the calendar year is expected to benefit from the continued resurgence of corporate travel, festivals, and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) activities.

"Backed by the strong performance of hotels across India, we continue to see investors allocating funds to this asset class. There is strong momentum in both greenfield developments and operating assets across business and leisure markets," said Jaideep Dang, MD, hotels and hospitality, India, JLL.



AROUND 30 branded hotels with a total of 1,988 keys opened during the quarter. Of these, approximately 80 per cent were located in Tier II and III cities, including Tirupati, Udaipur, Ranchi, etc.

— JLL REPORT

https://www.snapfrom.com https://www.americadollars.com/

SHORT TAKES

India's blind side won't play in Pak

New Delhi: The Indian blind cricket team will not compete in the T20 World Cup as the government has denied the permission to travel to Pakistan due to security concerns, the national federation said on Tuesday.

The Indian team was supposed to cross the Wagah border on Wednesday for the event, scheduled to be held from November 23 to December 3.

The team had got a No Objection Certificate (NOC), at no-cost to the government, from the Sports Ministry to participate in the tournament but apparently couldn't get clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"We have been told unofficially that the blind team will not be permitted to travel to Pakistan. We were scheduled to travel to Wagah border tomorrow. But as of now, no clearance has come from the Ministry officials. So, we are a bit disappointed," Shailendra Yadav, General Secretary of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), said.

Yadav said that the decision could have been conveyed to the team a tad earlier. — *PTI*

Shafali dropped from Indian team

New Delhi: Top-order batter Shafali Verma was on Tuesday dropped from India's 16-member women's team for the three-match ODI series in Australia in December after a string of poor performances in the past year.

The BCCI selectors seem to have once again lost patience with the 20-year-old right-handed batter, whose recent ODI form has been disappointing. Shafali has scored just 108 runs in six matches this year with 33 being the highest.

She was dropped in December last year from the team midway during the home ODI series against Australia on the basis of her poor run, before making a comeback against South Africa in June in Bengaluru. — *PTI*

India's squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Priya Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Yastika Bhatia (WK), Richa Ghosh (WK), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Saima Thakor.

Anupama stuns Zhang in opener

Shenzhen: India's Anupama Upadhyaya recorded a stunning three-game win over world number 15 American Beiwen Zhang to progress to the women's singles second round at the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old from Almora, ranked world number 50, showed great composure to outsmart Zhang 21-17, 8-21, 22-20 in a 48-minute contest. It was her first second round appearance in a BWF Super 750 World Tour event.

India's B. Sumeeth Reddy and N. Sikki Reddy also advanced to the mixed doubles second round. The husband-wife duo fought past the American pair of Presley Smith and Jennie Gai 23-21, 17-21, 21-17. — *PTI*

Federer hails 'historic' Nadal

Malaga, Spain: Tennis great Roger Federer hailed his former rival Rafael Nadal on Tuesday ahead of the Spaniard's imminent retirement from tennis at the Davis Cup.

"Rafa, I have to say: What an incredible run you've had. Including 14 French Opens — historic!" Federer wrote on social media platform X. "You made Spain proud... you made the whole tennis world proud."

Retired Swiss star Federer and Nadal faced each other 14 times at Grand Slam tournaments with Nadal holding a 6-3 advantage in finals.

The Spaniard also had a 24-16 winning record overall in their 40 head-to-head meetings.

"I keep thinking about the memories we've shared... always cracking each other up," wrote Federer.

"Wearing each other out on the court and then, sometimes, almost literally having to hold each other up during trophy ceremonies." — *AFP*

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Editor: **Kaushik Mitter**

India coach Gautam Gambhir addresses the team during a training session in Perth on Tuesday. — *BCCI*

BODYLINE!

Healy advises Oz quicks to target Kohli's body, push him back

Sydney, Nov. 19: Legendary Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy wants his country's pace attack to employ every strategy, from targeting Virat Kohli's front foot to "body bashing" him with short-pitched deliveries, to get the Indian stalwart out in the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy, beginning in Perth on Friday.

The star Indian batter has been enduring a lean patch across all formats in recent months, with just two centuries and 11 fifties in his last 60 Test innings.

However, despite these struggles, Kohli boasts an impressive average of 54.0 in Australia.

Healy has urged the formidable Australian pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc to try and put Kohli on the back-foot.

"The first matchup I'm looking at is how our quicks can bowl to Virat Kohli, and I think they should target his front pad quite often," Healy told SEN Radio.

"Don't do it every ball because he'll get used to it... it's the impact ball that has to be on the front pad after he is set up with seam."

If the tactic doesn't work, Healy wants the bowlers to target Kohli's body.

"If that's (front-foot tactic) not working, body bash. Bowl at the back armpit, that's the right arm as a right-handed batsman... and it's got to be hot," Healy said.

"Have him jumping at times if he wants to ride those deliveries — ducking, weaving or bending backwards. Get that short leg position right next to him on the leg side and if you need a bumper, it's got to go at the badge. He might try to bust out of a hard spell with a hook shot or pull shot and that will be hard to control if it's badge height," opined Healy.

"So that's the second tactic, body bashing," he added.

LEAVE HIM ALONE, SAYS WATSON

Former all-rounder Shane Watson has advised the Australian team to avoid getting into confrontations with Kohli as he feels the intensity the celebrated Indian batter derives from provocations brings the best out of him.

"The one thing that I know of Virat is... because the fire burns so brightly and deep inside him, the intensity he brings to every ball that he is engaged in a game has been superhuman," Watson was quoted as saying on the *Willow Talk* podcast. — *PTI*

India's Virat Kohli trains in Perth on Tuesday in preparation for the first Test against Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy beginning on Friday. — *BCCI*

India's confidence 'damaged' but Oz won't underestimate

Perth, Nov. 19: A shattering defeat to New Zealand on home soil would have caused a "little bit of damage" to India's confidence but Australia will not make the mistake of underestimating the visitors, said charismatic batter Marnus Labuschagne here on Tuesday.

The world No. 2 India are heading into the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series, starting here on Friday, following their whitewash at home, which ended their 12-year unbeaten run in their own backyard.

Australia's middle-order mainstay Labuschagne believes the loss to the Kiwis would have dented India's confidence.

"It's really hard to judge. They played in completely different conditions — spinning conditions — but having India come here off the back of a loss at home is something that's never happened before (in my career)," Labuschagne told the media.

"I think that is a good thing in terms of... they are probably a little bit lower on confidence, not coming off a Test victory, losing to New Zealand 3-0. I think that's going to do a little bit of damage to their confidence."

However, Labuschagne insisted that Australia, who have lost each of their last four series to India both home and away, will have to guard against complacency.

"They're a quality line-up and they're one of the best teams in the world. So you can never underestimate a team like that," he said.

India staged an incredible comeback on their last Australia tour in 2020-21 to win 2-1, despite the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli and injuries to several other frontline players along the way.

"That's what happened in 2021 — the likes of (T) Natarajan played, (Mohammad) Siraj got his first crack in Australia, Washington Sundar played," Labuschagne recalled. — *PTI*

> ● World No. 2 India are heading into the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series, starting in Perth on Friday, following their whitewash at home, which ended their 12-year unbeaten run in their own backyard.

BUMRAH INDIA'S 'X-FACTOR' FOR AUSSIE HEAD

Perth, Nov. 19: Dubbed as the bowler "impossible to face" by swashbuckling Australian batter Travis Head and a "cat burglar" by former tearaway pacer Brett Lee, Jasprit Bumrah's reputation precedes him.

The India pacer, who is set to captain India in the first Test of the five-match series starting here Friday, has left both past and present Australian players in awe of his skill and threat.

Not since the golden era of the West Indies in the 1970s has a touring pace bowler struck fear into the hearts of Australians as much as Bumrah, according to the local media here.

Head, Usman Khawaja and Steven Smith — all top-order batters — who are set to face Bumrah in the marquee five-match series are unanimous about the pivotal role the Indian pace spearhead can play for India.

"Impossible (to face). You try to feel like you're one step ahead, but it always feels like he's that next step," Head told *Fox Cricket*.

"Any format of the game, he's incredible. He's their X-factor, he's the guy they go to every time, and more often than not, he's able to produce for them," he added. — *PTI*

PANT SAYS DID NOT LEAVE DELHI FOR CAPITAL

New Delhi, Nov. 19: Rishabh Pant on Tuesday rejected the legendary Sunil Gavaskar's assessment that the India wicketkeeper-batter left Delhi Capitals due to disagreement over his retention fee ahead of the mega auction of the Indian Premier League.

Pant, who captained Delhi Capitals last year after making a comeback from a horrific car accident, is among the marquee players who were not retained by their franchises. He is expected to be one of the most sought-after players when the auction takes place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25.

"My retention wasn't about the money for sure that I can say," Pant wrote on X, responding to a broadcaster video showing Gavaskar talking about the auction dynamics. — *PTI*

WOMEN'S ASIAN | CHAMPIONS TROPHY

India blank Japan, face China in final

Rajgir (Bihar), Nov. 19: Defending champions India continued their unbeaten run and defeated Japan 2-0 to enter the final of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

Vice-captain Navneet Kaur converted a penalty stroke in the 48th minute while Lalaremsiami struck from field play in the 56th minute for India, who had plenty of scoring chances including 13 penalty corners.

India will face China, whom they defeated in the league stages, in the final on Wednesday. Earlier, China beat Malaysia 3-1 in the first semifinal.

Malaysia will take on Japan in the third-fourth place match, while Korea finished fifth after beating Thailand 3-0 in the fifth-sixth place classification match.

The Indians continued their attacking game and put on early pressure on the Japanese defence, just like the last league game.

The play was mostly inside the Japanese half as the Indian defence was hardly tested.

India's Lalaremsiami celebrates her goal against Japan in the ACT semifinal on Tuesday. — *PTI*

India had the first shot at the goal inside the initial five minute. Skipper Salima Tete's attempt was thwarted by Japanse goalkeeper Yu Kudo.

The Indians repeatedly penetrated the Japanese citadel and in the process secured two penalty corners in a span of two minutes but Kudo was alert under the bar to deny Navneet Kaur and Deepika. — *PTI*

CITY CLIPS

Members of the Telangana School Games Federation table tennis team (from left) coach S. Surender Singh, Arush Reddy, Rishab Singh, Tarun Kedarnath, manager Deepesh Singh, captain Jatin Dev and Devansh Singh pose with their medals and trophy from the 68th National School Games held at Daman and Diu.

State boys win TT school nationals

The Telangana State school table tennis team emerged national champions at the 68th National School Games held at Daman and Diu. In the Boys Under 17 final, the State boys defeated Maharashtra 3-2. Earlier in the semifinals, they had blanked Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan 3-0. The team led by captain Jatin Dev comprised Arush Reddy, Rishab Singh, Tarun Kedarnath and Devansh Singh with S. Surender Singh as their coach.

THE RESULTS

■ **Boys U-17 final:** Telangana bt Maharashtra 3-2 (Jatin Dev lost to Ishan Khandekar 8-11, 6-11, 8-11; Arush Reddy bt Parth Vinod 11-7, 4-11, 11-7; Tarun Kedarnath bt Shubh Narayan 11-13, 11-7, 14-12, 7-11, 12-10; Arush Reddy lost to Ishan Khandekar 11-8, 6-11, 8-11, 11-13; Jatin Dev bt Parth Vinod 11-6, 5-11, 11-9, 11-7. **Semifinal:** Telangana bt Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan 3-0 (Arush Reddy bt Raunak Kar 11-6, 11-8, 4-11, 8-11, 11-6; Jatin Dev bt Pawan Kumar 11-7, 11-4, 11-5; Tarun Kedarnath bt Rupomit Saha 11-5, 12-10, 11-9.

Players of the South Central Railway team are jubilant as they pose with the trophy after winning the 47th All India Railway Basketball Championship for Women at the Railway Sports Complex Grounds in Secunderabad on Tuesday. SCR beat South Western Railway 73-58 in the final to win the tournament that was played on a league-cum-knockout basis and contested by 12 divisions of Indian Railways.

5-a-side football field gets Fifa nod

Hyderabad-based Woxsen University's RACE football field has been awarded the world football body FIFA's Quality Pro Certification, making it the first university in India to achieve the distinction. The 5-a-side football facility is equipped with synthetic turf and floodlighting systems which enable teams to train irrespective of the weather conditions while enhancing the quality of play.

State Powerlifters for South meet

As many as 30 powerlifters from Telangana will compete at the South India Powerlifting Championship to be held at Salem from November 22 to 24. The State team is coached by M. Praveen Kumar and managed by Telangana Powerlifting Association secretary Joseph James.

TELANGANA TEAMS

■ **Senior Men:** 74 kg — M. Shrenik (Hyderabad), V. Nitish (Hyderabad); 83 kg — G. Ramesh (Hyderabad); 93 kg — M. Pavan (Khammam); 105 kg — S. Pranay (Warangal), G. Uday Kumar (Hyderabad); 120 kg — K. Sagar (Hyderabad), B. Karthik (Khammam); 59 kg — T. Kalyan (reserve, Hyderabad). **Senior Women:** 52 kg — V. Nishanka (Warangal); 63 kg — Asima Pattnayak (Ranga Reddy); 69 kg — G. Prashanthi (Hyderabad), C. H. Nageena (Khammam); 76 kg — G. Naga Jyothi (Ranga Reddy); 84 kg — Pragathi Mahavadi (Hyderabad).

■ **Junior Women:** 69 kg — CH Akhila (Hyderabad); 84+ kg — Divya (Hyderabad). **Junior Boys:** 59 kg — K. Dhanush (Warangal); 66 kg — M. Akhil (Hyderabad); 74 kg — Laxmi Pranay (Hyderabad), B. Shiva Shankar (Hyderabad); 83 kg — Taak Jathen (Hyderabad), Vignesh (Hyderabad); 93 kg — Niranjan Kale (Hyderabad); 105 kg — K. Mallesh (Hyderabad); 120+ kg — P. Bhargav Ram (Ranga Reddy); 74 kg — Pavan (reserve, Warangal); 93 kg — G. Kiran (reserve, Warangal).

■ **Sub-junior Men:** 74 kg — Govardhan (Hyderabad); 60 kg — Md Zohair (Hyderabad).