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Noted scientist Govind Swarup dead

Pune (PTI): Renowned radio astronomer and scientist Govind Swarup died on Monday night in a private hospital here in Maharashtra following illness, the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) said in a statement. He was 91. Swarup, the doyen of Indian radio astronomy, was the founding director of the NCRA, which is part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). "National Centre for Radio Astronomy (NCRA) with a very heavy heart, announces that our renowned scientist, great radio astronomer Prof. Govind Swarup passed away on Monday 9 pm at a private hospital following illness," the NCRA said. Born in 1929, Swarup was one of the pioneers of radio astronomy in India, it said.

Russian vaccine released for public

Moscow (IANS): In some good news for millions living in hope for a Covid-19 vaccine shot, the Russian Health Ministry said on Tuesday that the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine has been produced for civilian circulation. The supplies of the medication to the Russian regions are expected soon, the Health Ministry told reporters, reports Tass news agency. "The first batch of the vaccine for preventing the novel coronavirus infection, Gam-COVID-Vac (Sputnik V) developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry passed the required quality tests and was produced for civilian circulation. "In the near future, the supplies of the first batches of the vaccine to the regions are expected," the ministry said.

NATION



ITBP deploys female doctors at forward locations in Ladakh

P3



China raises its ugly head again

India, China accuse each other of firing warning shots

New Delhi (IANS): India and China accused each other of indulging in a fresh skirmish at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, where troops fired warning shots in the air to scare and push back each other.

China accused Indian Army troops of having fired the warning shots. India, on the other hand, accused Chinese People's Liberation Army troops of firing a few rounds in the air in an attempt to intimidate the Indian Army troops.

The incident took place near Shenpao mountain close to the south bank of Pangong Tso (Lake) on Monday.

On Tuesday, the Indian Army in a statement said that China continues to "undertake provocative activities to escalate" the situation at the border and it was the Chinese People's Liberation Army troops who "fired a few rounds in the air" in an attempt to intimidate Indian troops. At



China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers approached towards Indian post near Mukhpai peak at about 6 pm on Monday

no stage has the Indian Army transgressed across the LAC or resorted to use of any aggressive means, including firing," Indian Army spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand said.

The force stated that it is the Chinese People's Liberation Army that has been "blatantly violating agreements and carrying out aggressive manoeuvres, while engagement at the military, diplomatic and political level is in progress. "In the instant case on



IAF fighter jet flies in Ladakh region amid the prolonged India-China stand off, in Leh on Tuesday

dian Army is committed to maintaining peace and tranquility, however, it is also determined to protect national integrity and sovereignty at all costs. The statement from the Western Theatre Command is an attempt to mislead their domestic and international audience."

On Monday, China issued a statement that the Indian Army "blatantly fired threats" to the patrol personnel of the Chinese border guards who had made representation, and

the Chinese border guards were forced to take "countermeasures to stabilise the situation on the ground."

"India's actions seriously violated the relevant agreements and the agreements between China and India, pushing up regional tensions and easily causing misunderstandings and misjudgments," said Chinese People's Liberation Army's Western Theater Command, Colonel Zhang Shuili in a statement.

Continued on Page 5

EAM: Situation very serious

New Delhi: Ahead of his expected talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Moscow, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said the state of the border with China cannot be de-linked from the state of the overall relationship with the neighbouring country.

The external affairs minister also described the situation in eastern Ladakh as 'very serious' which he said calls for 'very very deep conversation' between the two sides at a political level. "The state of the border cannot be de-linked from the state of the relationship. I wrote it before that unfortunate incident happened in Galwan," Jaishankar said referring to his newly published book The India Way.

Army to upgrade 'night-blind' vehicles

New Delhi (PTI): The Indian Army has kick-started a process to make its infantry combat vehicles capable of operating in the night, a move that comes at a time it is engaged in a fierce border row with the Chinese military in eastern Ladakh, officials said.

The army has already invited expression of interest (EoI) from eligible domestic companies for the development of prototype and further procurement of armament for BMP-2/2K infantry combat vehicles. The current fleet of BMP-2/2Ks was first inducted into the Army in 1985 and it has been the mainstay of the mechanised infantry since then. The EoI said the armament sys-

tem is "night blind" and needs to be upgraded with night-fighting capabilities. "The terrain along our borders lends itself to conduct of large scale mechanised operations and the belligerence of our adversaries on the borders necessitate that our capabilities are adequately built up to match the threat," the Army said in the document. It said the existing armament sighting system in use is based on image intensifier technology which has its limitations and is not fit for modern-day warfare. "Present system is also deficient of modernised Fire Control System and Automatic Target Tracker which adversely affects the capability of BMP-

2/2K to fight both during day and night," it said. The Indian Army is engaged in a standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh since early May. Both sides held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the row. Tensions have further escalated since last week in the region after Indian troops foiled attempts by the Chinese PLA to occupy Indian territories in the Southern Bank of Pangong lake area on the intervening night of August 29 and 30. Following the confrontation, India occupied a number of strategic heights in the Chushul sector overlooking crucial bases of the Chinese military.

Continued on Page 5

China tests secret spacecraft

New Delhi/ Beijing (IANS): China claims to have successfully tested a secret "reusable" spacecraft amid crisis along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India in Ladakh and confrontation with multiple nations in South China Sea. The Xinhua news agency on Sunday said that the vehicle returned to its "scheduled landing site" following a two-day mission in orbit after it was launched on a Long March 2F rocket on Friday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Gobi desert.

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Popular Telugu actor passes away

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Popular Telugu actor Jaya Prakash Reddy passed away on Tuesday at his residence in Guntur. The actor suffered cardiac arrest. He was 74 and diabetic.

The villain turned comedian Jaya Prakash Reddy was not only a versatile thespian but also a great theatre artiste. Reddy was popular for his role in films like Samarasimha Reddy, Preminchukundam Raa, Narasimha Naidu, Navvostanante Nenoddantana, Julayi, Ready, Kick, Jayam Manadera, Jamba Lakadi Pamba, Avunu Vallidaru Ishtapaddaru,



Jaya Prakash Reddy

Kabaddi Kabbadi, Evadi Gola Vadidi and Kithakithalu. Initially, the actor gained popularity for villainous roles, and later in his career, he appeared in several comic roles.

Starting off with serious roles as a villain in movies,

Reddy later transitioned into a highly successful comedian as well. He was last seen in Mahesh Babu's film Sarileru Neekevvaru, which was released during Sankranti.

Tributes poured in from politicians as well as Tollywood personalities and others. "Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy expressed grief over the death of Jaya Prakash Reddy, who created a special place for himself through his inimitable dialogue delivery and mannerisms."

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao expressed condolences on the passing away of actor

Jayaprakash Reddy. Expressing his sorrow, Rao said the actor was quite popular with the masses.

"Telugu cinema and theatre has lost a gem today with the demise of Jaya Prakash Reddy garu. His versatile performances over several decades have given us many a memorable cinematic moments," said former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Mahesh Babu took to Twitter to pay his tributes to Jaya Prakash Reddy. He wrote, "Saddened by the passing of #JayaPrakashReddy garu. One of TFI's finest actor-comedians."

Continued on Page 5

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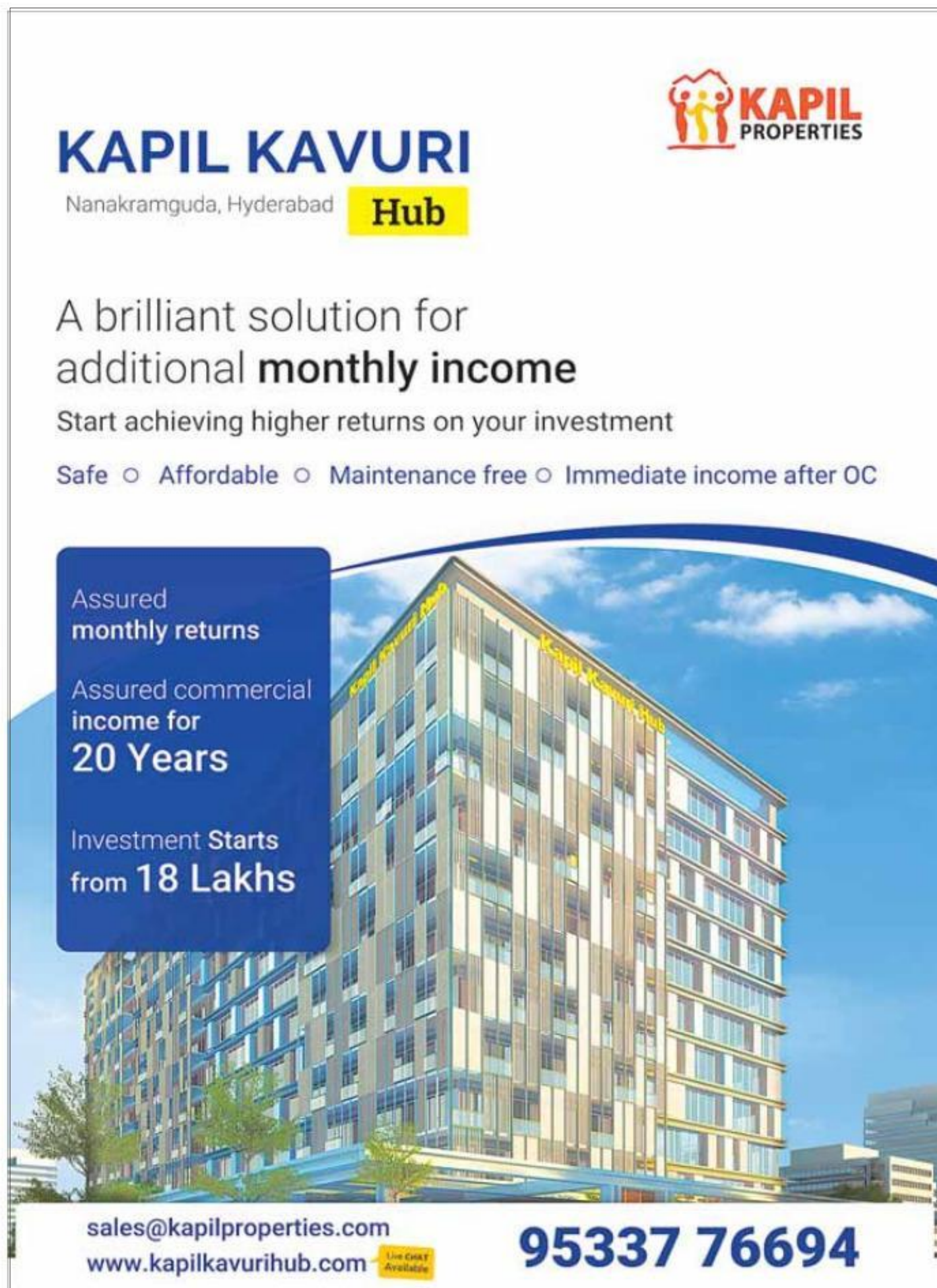
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RIP #Jayaprakashreddy garu..
Remembering fondly our great times at
shoots.. Was always fun interacting with
you.. Prayers and strength to the family



Keeping your kids sane

The pandemic has brought in a surge of issues just like Pandora's box. In this race against the COVID-19, we have endured a lot of restrictions. All public areas shut with work from home becoming a new norm, though the adults have adjusted, the kids are still not able to adjust in the new normal.

Suddenly, maintaining distance, sanitizing and wearing a mask became an integral part of our lives. Having kids around is another cause of worry as they are easily vulnerable to covid-19. But, accepting what life throws at us is the only way to lead, else it may only impact our health and well-being. My kids are in primary school, and it is challenging to make them understand why they can't go out to play in the park or visit their friends.

I suddenly restricted them from stepping out of the main door, and so did their friend's parents. Unable to fathom, they resisted the change but slowly adapted. As a parent, it is my duty to ensure that the health of my kids is wholly safeguarded but also to take care that mental health is not taking a toll during such tough times, which is hard to pass.

Speak

I speak to them regularly and address all their concerns. Be it their feeling of anguish or boredom, knowing what's going on in their mind is the best way to keep them safe and sane.

Spend time

There is no doubt that being in a 4-wall is boring. So, I take out time and organize

some fun activities which keep them engaged and learn new things. Some activities that I arranged during summer were cooking sessions, gardening, video conferencing with grandparents and cousins. This helped them curb the urge to go out.

Make them understand

Although it is challenging to step outdoors as kids demand to the company you may increase, but I would communicate the need, time taken to return and where I am going clearly. This helped them understand that it is important for their mother to go out. They watch me carrying sanitizer and wearing a face mask – this itself has become a big teaching for them. As the saying goes, the children do what you show! Today, they very well understand the significance of such healthy measures.

Awareness

Raising awareness about the pandemic should not be undermined with kids. It is essential to educate what is going around them and how this disease is dreadful. I always keep them updated about vaccine development, which makes them look forward to life.

Exercise

It is a rule in our house to exercise and keep the body fit. This new engagement has helped them find their new interest in exercise such as yoga, dance, aerobics.

Positivity

Talking positive and good things motivates and makes children happy. It is difficult for them to adjust to a home confined environment. As a parent, I always ensure that they are excited and in their best mood so that they can take part fully in their online classes, homeschooling and a virtual world. Patience and a lot of positive vibes are needed to drive through this trodden road.

(The author is a former Mrs India Worldwide 2019)

Dress classy and sassy!

Creating classy outfits is about putting together crucial elements and making sure your style and confidence also shines through. So if you are ready to delve into a new classy look and answer the question of how to dress classy, let's get started. Here are a few tips that will help you to look classy

Wear items that are made of classic fabrics

Classic, timeless clothing made of materials that will last well into the next decade is what you should be looking to add to your essential wardrobe. Think cotton, wool, linen, and silk. These fabrics have variations that allow you to expand on your wardrobe. Denim is one example of a cotton fabric that cuts across all style lines, from street to boho to minimalist. Similarly, chino cotton works excellent in pants, blazers and even moto jackets. Then there is cashmere, a type of wool that feels heavenly against the skin and doesn't pill with age. Cashmere sweaters, whether they are cardigans, V-necks, or crew neck pullovers pair perfectly with those denim jeans, as well as tailored pants and skirts.

If in doubt, wear solid neutrals

Bold patterns and prints can definitely work in a sophisticated and classy look, but you may not be comfortable with such patterns if you are just beginning on your classy style journal. Neutrals are your friend in this case. Solids are plentiful in the stores easily combined, and help to stretch your wardrobe. Typical neutrals are white/beige/cream, navy blue, black, and gray. Now, don't think you have to dress head-to-toe in black

Fit is key

Classy and sophisticated clothing is typically tailored and form-fitting. Skirts should hit just above or below the knee, as should your classy dresses. Classic trousers are straight, slightly wide, faintly bootcut, or menswear-inspired and should be 1/2-inch off the floor in the back. Wide-leg pants and skinny pants in classic fabrics are also acceptable, as are ankle pants. Blazers, blouses, and sweaters should follow the curve of your waist. Do not hesitate to take items to a local dressmaker or tailor to be altered to fit correctly.

Never overexpose

Necklines are typically collared, boat neck, crew neck or V-neck. For some variety, you can also try square, cowl, and scoop necks. For more formal occasions, asymmetrical, sweetheart and halter necklines work as well. Regardless, keep your cleavage and your belly button covered. Additionally, armholes on blouses and dresses should not reveal your bra.

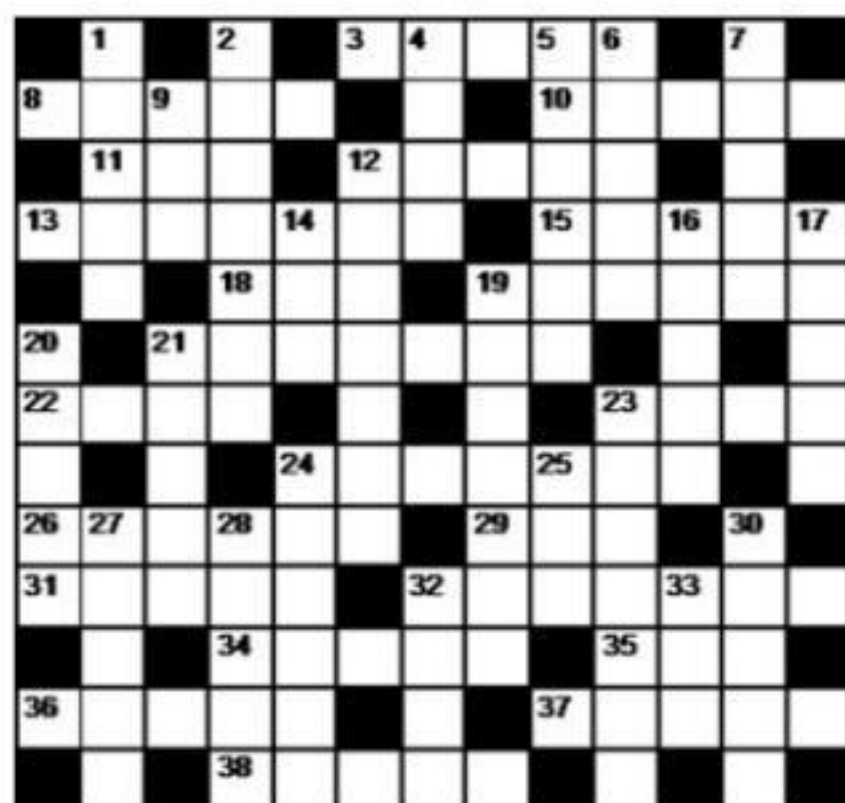


Tarini Mukherji with her kids

FOR LONG HAIR

QUICK TIP

Normally for long hair, one should use Argan oil both before and after a blow dry, on wet hair and on dry hair. After a blow dry, take a drop on your hands and blend it through the hair to make it shiny and smooth. A crème for straightened hair for clean sharp styles and a powder if you want to create structure in short hair. Nothing more needs to be done.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 8

CROSSWORD

Across

- 3 Taken ____ : surprised or disconcerted ? (5)
- 8 Small boats (5)
- 10 Assumed name (5)
- 11 Also (3)
- 12 Die Hard star Willis (5)
- 13 Clumsy (7)
- 15 Levels or grades (5)
- 18 Big bird (3)
- 19 Learned person (6)
- 21 Purple flowered plants - "ropes in" anagram (7)
- 22 Japanese sashes (4)
- 23 Screen symbol (4)
- 24 Go sour or spoil (7)
- 26 Like better (6)
- 29 Anger (3)
- 31 Seasons (5)
- 32 Basics (7)
- 34 Tiny particles (5)
- 35 Gumshoe (3)
- 36 Near (5)
- 37 Pool problem (5)
- 38 Shallow gardening baskets (5)

Down

- 1 Muslim decree (5)
- 2 Glares, scowls or pouts (7)
- 4 The Great ____ :
- Shakespeare (4)
- 5 Desert plant (6)
- 6 Designer Calvin ____ (5)
- 7 Mediterranean island (5)
- 9 Chinese frying pan (3)
- 12 Prize-fighter (7)
- 14 Electrical unit, in short (3)
- 16 Decree (5)
- 17 Astonishes or shocks (5)
- 19 Allows or lets (7)
- 20 Commandeer (2-3)
- 21 Greased (5)
- 23 Incompetently (7)
- 24 Suppurate (6)
- 25 Epoch (3)
- 27 Biathlon equipment (5)
- 28 Magnificent meal (5)
- 30 Rot away (5)
- 32 Polluted air (4)
- 33 A lower limb (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 8

Redefining Maternity Clothing for Expecting Mothers

With an increasing focus on pregnancy fashion and growing pregnant working women population, there is a rising demand for stylish maternity clothing. According to Grand View Research, Market Analysis Report 2019, the global maternity wear market size is expected to expand at a CAGR of 4.3% from 2019 to 2025.

Due to the growing potential of the industry, a large number of new entrants have joined the segment to provide fashionable yet comfortable maternity wear. Expecting mothers now have access to various online portals that provide maternity wear, including tops and denim, dresses and gowns, nightwear, and nursing covers, in addition to baby products like baby apparel, diaper bags, nursing pillows, baby accessories, bedding and blankets.

Maternity wear: A basic need

With growing income patterns and spending power, the maternity wear market looks quite profitable holding enormous potential of providing better options of essentials for expecting mothers and making their motherhood memorable. During and post pregnancy, a woman's body undergoes a host of changes from physical changes. From buying clothes to buying bras, there is always a requirement of transformation of the wardrobe.

Stylish yet comfortable clothing

Maternity clothing has pretty much always been unflattering and unsexy, conjuring up the vision of self-effacing empire waist dresses and denim pants with stretchy waists. Till a few years ago, women would struggle to balance the celebration of this new stage of life while retaining their identity. Designing clothing for a changing body is a difficult task and retailers were not lured by the challenge.

With evolving times, many brands have launched chic maternity clothing lines to provide women with the sort of stylish and cool options that would suit their body and look their size. From ethnic dresses to airy bohemian blouses, slip dresses and boyfriend cords, the brands are redefining maternity clothing and facilitating women with good looking yet comfortable maternity clothing. The fabrics are low maintenance and breathable that balances a baby bump without hiding your entire body.

A lot of brands have a special collection of maternity wear in their product portfolio for newbie mothers and expecting mothers to meet the growing needs of well-fitting clothes. The growth of the maternity care products industry suggests that it is eventually transforming from a small-time interest market into a growing commercial industry.

The unorganised market has now become an organized segment largely concentrated amongst leading manufacturing brands that are willing to expand their operations and capture the untapped market.

— Surbhi Bhatia, Founder of The Mom Store



AP CM for ramping up of testing Pattas to tribals on Oct 2

- ◆ Directs that testing should be made available from primary health centres up to district hospitals
- ◆ There should not be any abnormal delays in providing results
- ◆ He also tells the officials to strictly place the primary and secondary contacts of the positive cases under home quarantine

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the officials to ensure that Covid-19 tests are available at all government hospitals from Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to district hospitals and focus should be on conducting more number of tests.

During a videoconference with the district collectors and the SPs as part of the Spandana here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that efforts should be made on creating awareness among people over Covid tests and make the tests available at all government hospitals. Reiterating that we have to live with the disease, he instructed authorities to be vigilant and take timely action. He directed the



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing a videoconference with district collectors and SPs as part of Spandana programme in Tadepalli on Tuesday

officials to make best use of 104 call centre in creating awareness and also ordered the district collectors to monitor the calls handled by the helpline and also conduct mock calls.

He instructed the collectors to focus on the test results, without any delays. TrueNat and RT-PCR test results should be done within 24 hours of sample collection and in Rapid tests, the results should be given within 30 minutes of sample collection. The Chief Minister also directed the officials to strictly place the primary and secondary contacts of the positive cases under home quarantine. Besides these, he asked the officials to provide a medical kit with all the required medicines for those in home isolation and told the joint collectors to monitor the supply of the kits.

He told the officials to expedite the recruitment process of

medical professionals exclusively for Covid duty. So far, the state government has taken a decision to recruit additional medical staff of about 17,000 for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. Besides these, the government took a decision to recruit 11,000 trainee nurses.

Further, he said 16 new teaching hospitals will be established and the tender process shall commence from next month. So far, there are 11 teaching hospitals across the state, and with the new ones, a total of 27 teaching hospitals will be available across the state. The officials were also informed to accelerate the process of identifying land for Urban Health Clinics.

Deputy Chief Minister All Kali Krishna (Nani), ministers Botcha Satyanarayana, Audimulapu Suresh and officials were among those at the Spandana programme.

State reports 10,601 new cases

Amaravati: For the fifth day in a row, the state saw more number of coronavirus patients getting cured than the addition of new cases, though the 10,000-plus positives daily has become a regularity.

In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday, 11,691 Covid-19 patients got discharged from hospitals in the state upon recovering from the infection while 10,601 fresh cases increased the overall tally to 5,17,094. The number of active cases dropped further to 96,769 after a total of 4,15,765 patients got cured so far and another 4,560 died, including 73 in the last 24 hours, the latest bulletin said. A record 70,993 samples were tested in 24 hours, taking the state's gross to 42.37 lakh, with a positivity rate of 12.20 per cent.

- Chief Minister asks officials to complete identifying boundaries, marking stones, taking photograph of beneficiaries standing in their allotted sites
- Says biometric attendance must for village, ward secretariat staff while volunteers should put in at least 3 days of attendance in the secretariats in a week
- A call centre has been set up with 200 staff to monitor the services being provided in village/ward secretariats

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the distribution of Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) pattas to the tribals in 35 scheduled zones would take place on October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti.

During the Spandana videoconference with the district collectors and the SPs on Tuesday, the Chief Minister directed the officials to complete identifying boundaries, marking stones, taking photograph of beneficiaries standing in their allotted sites, record the details and file

Naadu-Nedu works to be completed by Sept 30

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to focus on completing Naadu-Nedu programme in schools by September 30 without any compromise in quality. During the Spandana videoconference here on Tuesday, he instructed the district collectors and the joint collectors to monitor the quality of Naadu-Nedu works and speed up them. Though initially only a set of nine works were included under Naadu-Nedu, now another work of construction kitchen sheds was also included.

CM also directs officials to act tough on those involved in sand hoarding and smuggling

The works should be completed by month end as schools are likely to be reopened on October 5. The officials informed that slab work has to be done in 1,085 toilets and 55,607 Anganwadi centres are also going to be revamped under the initiative.

Taking a serious note on the irregularities of sand mining and illegal transportation, the Chief Minister ordered the officials to take stern action against those involved, irrespective of their social status.

the details in webland and RoFR database.

On village secretariats, he said biometric attendance system is being implemented in village/ward secretariats and every employee of village and ward secretariat should work sitting in the office. Attendance should be taken for volunteers in secretariats for at least three days in a week and they can present in secretariats as per their convenience.

Chief Minister directed the district collectors to visit village/ward secretariats twice a week and joint collectors should visit four times in a week. Heads of departments and secretaries should also visit the secretariats

twice in a month and this activity would be monitored from Chief Minister's office, he said.

A call centre has been already set up with 200 employees and they were monitoring the services being provided in village/ward secretariats. Exams for 16,208 vacant posts in secretariats would be conducted on September 25 and 26.

On NAREGS, the Chief Minister said the state has received additional 4.25 crore working days and there is a chance of Rs 4,000 crore material component to the state. He directed the officials to work keeping a target to utilise Rs 10 crore material component in a week in every district.

Govt negligence blamed for Covid havoc in State

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Observing that Andhra Pradesh accounts for at least 13 per cent of the total Covid-19 positive cases in the country TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu criticised the YSRCP government for its negligence which made the state of the hotspots of the pandemic in the country.

In a statement on Tuesday, Naidu said that the government's indifferent attitude led to total loss of control as AP now recorded one lakh cases in just 10 days while its first one lakh cases took nearly 138 days.

The TDP chief said that over 13 per cent of the country's current

- ▶ TDP chief says the disease spread rapidly in AP due to the indifferent attitude of the YSRCP govt
- ▶ Alleges that Rs 2,000 to the discharged patients, Rs 15,000 to the kin of the diseased towards funeral expenses are not being paid as promised by CM

infections were being reported in AP which indicates the alarming rate at which coronavirus was spread in the state. It was because of the YSRCP government's complacency that the people's health was now put in serious risk. Dis-

charged patients from quarantine centres were not being given Rs 2,000 as promised by the Chief Minister, he pointed out.

Naidu expressed concern over the wastage of 30 per cent oxygen due to lack of proper supervision at hospitals. There was abnormal delay in supply of oxygen cylinders at Covid hospitals. Ventilators were not being fitted in the ICUs to give proper treatment to the patients. The government was not fulfilling its promise of giving Rs 15,000 for conducting last rites to the deceased. Not a single rupee was paid towards the promised Rs 50 lakh compensation to the kin of Covid frontline martyrs, he said.

NCB arrests Rhea Chakraborty on third day of grilling

Continued from P1

A Mumbai Police spokesperson said that the complaint has been lodged with Bandra Police under the Indian Penal Code and the NDPS Act, and in line with the Supreme Court orders, the case has been transferred to the CBI for investigation.

Rhea's arrest came three days after her brother Showik Chakraborty, Sushant's home manager Samuel Miranda, and his house helper Dipesh Sawant were arrested and sent in NCB custody till September 9 (Wednesday), besides two other drug peddlers Abdel Basit Parihar and Zaid Vilatra, who are also in NCB custody.

The NCB had earlier said that with these arrests, it hopes to "uproot the drugs citadel in Bollywood and Mumbai" amidst talk of several other Bollywood personalities coming on the agency's radar.

Earlier, Rhea was grilled multiple times by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate, and previously even questioned by the Mumbai Police, but was finally arrested by the NCB, nearly 11 weeks after Sushant was found dead in his Bandra home.

Displaying confidence in her gait, Rhea appeared calm and composed as she stepped out of the NCB office post-arrest to proceed for a medical and subsequent legal formalities.

The NCB had interrogated Rhea for six hours on Sunday, eight hours on Monday, and around five hours on Tuesday before her eventual arrest.

Maneshinde earlier said that Rhea has not approached any court to seek anticipatory bail in all the cases foisted on her by the Bihar Police, now with the CBI, ED and NCB.

Popular Telugu actor passes away

Continued from P1

"Will always cherish the experience of working with him. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones (sic)."

Leading Telugu actor, Venkatesh Dagubati, reminisced the time when both the actors worked together. "I am extremely sad to hear about the sudden demise of my dear friend Jayaprakash Reddy garu. We were such a great combination on screen. Will definitely miss him," said Venkatesh.

According to Jaya Prakash Reddy's wife Rajyalakshmi, the veteran actor did not suffer heart attack but had problems with diabetes. "My husband used to encourage new talent," she said about the Maths teacher turned actor.

Army to upgrade 'night-blind' vehicles

Continued from P1

Since then, China has deployed additional troops, tanks and anti-tank guided missiles in the area. India too has strengthened its combat capabilities following reinforcements by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). In the aftermath of the row, the Indian Army has initiated a number of new programmes to bolster its combat capabilities.

Girija Shankar gets addl charge of endowments

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The state government transferred M Girija Shankar, J S Venkateswara Prasad and other IAS officers on Tuesday. Venkateswara Prasad, special chief secretary, (endowments) revenue department, was transferred and posted as director general, AP HRDI, Bapatla.

Girija Shankar, commissioner, pan-chayat raj and rural development was placed in full additional charge of the post of secretary, (endowments), revenue de-

State govt effects minor reshuffle of IAS officials

partment.

M N Harendhira Prasad, deputy secretary, finance department and CEO, CFMS (APCFSS), was transferred and posted as joint collector (Rythu Bharosa and revenue), Nellore district.

Kothamasu Dinesh Kumar, sub-collector, Tenali in Guntur district, was transferred and posted as municipal commis-

sioner, Nellore. Kathawate Mayur Ashok, who has reported to AP cadre on inter-cadre transfer from Bihar cadre, is posted as sub-collector, Tenali.

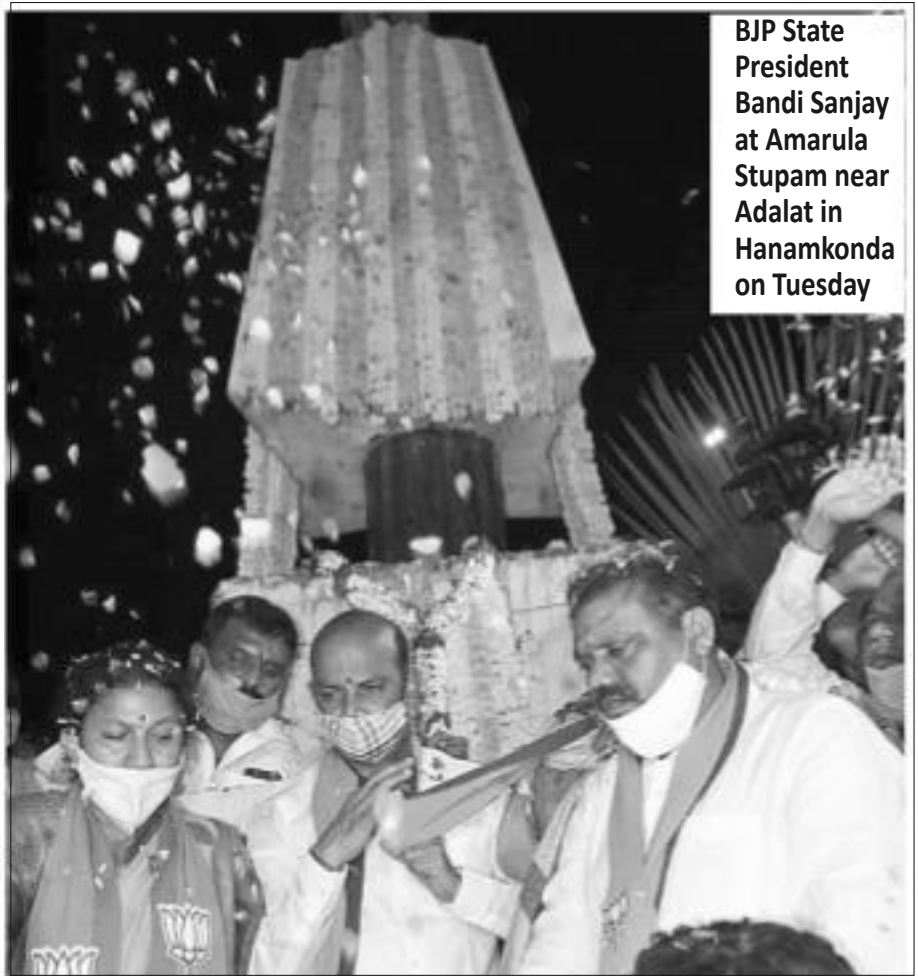
KCR mortgaged T pride: BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Warangal: It's been a long-pending demand to observe 'Telangana Vimochana Dinotsavam' (Liberation Day) on September 17. BJP's State President Bandi Sanjay said, addressing a huge gathering at the Amarula Stupam near Adalat here on Tuesday night.

The BJP has been demanding the government to observe Telangana Liberation Day since 1998, however, neither the Congress nor the TRS has made any attempt to do so even though it's a matter of 'self-respect', he said, recalling that a large number of people had sacrificed their lives fighting against the Nizam's tyrannical rule and the Razakars.

Equating Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao with the Nizams, Sanjay said that KCR, who mortgaged the pride of Telangana people, needs a DNA test. "Even though the MIM had opposed the formation of separate Telangana, TRS befriended with that party after coming to power," Sanjay said, questioning KCR's rationale behind that move. Referring to the importance given by the Maharashtra and Karnataka governments which celebrate Liberation Day on September 17, he said that the successive governments had undermined the significance of the Telangana



region. BJP State chief said that the TRS government is scared of MIM or else it would have celebrated it officially. He recalled KCR's demand for celebrating Liberation Day during the Statehood movement. But after coming to power he had changed tack because of friendship with the MIM, he added.

KCR ignored all those, who fought for the separate State while befriending the Telangana antagonists, Sanjay said, predicting that TRS would bite the dust and concede power to BJP in 2023.

BJP will prove its mettle in the upcoming by-poll to Dubbaka Assembly and elections to Hyderabad and Warangal municipal corporations, the BJP State President said.

Later, he proceeded to visit Amaradhamam at Parkal in Warangal Rural district. Earlier, he visited Bairanpally buruzu in Siddipet district. He was accompanied by party State General Secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy, Core Committee Member Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, senior leaders Rao Padma, E Rakesh Reddy and others.

China raises it ugly head again

Continued from P1

The statement said it is serious military provocation and is of very bad nature. "We request the Indian side to immediately stop dangerous actions, immediately withdraw cross-line personnel, strictly restrain front-line troops, and strictly investigate and punish personnel who fired shots to ensure that similar incidents do not occur again," said Colonel Shuili.

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

On June 15, at least 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley.



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nelapadu (Amaravati): The single judge bench of Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy on Tuesday reserved the order on the writ petition filed by senior police officer A B Venkateswara Rao seeking protection against the arrest by the police.

B Adinarayana Rao, counsel for petitioner Venkateswara Rao, former intelligence chief, informed the High Court that the petition has a fundamental right to dignity, privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution. He said that the apprehension of the petitioner that police will take high-handed action was

High Court reserves order on AB's petition

genuine. The senior counsel said that some junior IPS officers, with selfish motives and in an attempt to please the Chief Minister, are out to create prejudice against the petitioner.

He quoted a tweet by a senior IAS officer from the CMO as to how the IAS and the IPS officers were behaving.

The counsel said that the petitioner does not want a blanket protection and the court may impose conditions. He assured the court that the petitioner will not interfere with the witnesses and course of investigation.

Advocate General Sriram Subrahmanyam in his argument stated that the writ petition was clearly an abuse of process of

law. Unwarranted and unverified allegations are made against the IPS officers without any basis and facts, he pointed out.

The Advocate General also said that when the petitioner says that the IPS officers wanted to please the government, perhaps it was the conscience of the petitioner speaking.

After hearing the arguments, the single judge bench extended the interim order and reserved the final order.

It may be recalled that Jagan Mohan Reddy had accused Rao of serious misconduct in the process of procuring security equipment. Anti-Corruption Bureau has registered a case and is investigating.

land reforms in Telangana and donated over 800 acres of his land to the poor, the CM noted.

Stating that PV Narasimha Rao was the maker of Global India, Chandrashekar Rao said that PV proved his forte by appointing an economist Manmohan Singh as Union Minister of Finance, a person who had no relation with politics. "Today, we are enjoying the fruits of trees planted by PV in the form of reforms. He is the father of new economic policies and architect of global India," opined Rao.

The Chief Minister said that it was PV who was able to influence the then President of United States of America Bill Clinton to favour India over Pakistan. He put aside the border issue with China and went to Beijing by proposing to develop trade relations with the country and came to an agreement. It is his diplomacy which has enforced the peace to continue along the Indo-China border for around three decades, said the CM.

IT Minister KT Rama Rao said that many Telangana noted personalities including former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao did not get the respect he deserved in the united Andhra Pradesh.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Foreign currency borrowings on rise

“PFC raised about \$3 billion from international markets in FY20. Now, the share of foreign currency borrowings in the overall borrowing has increased to 16 per cent. Going forward, we expect the foreign currency borrowings to contribute to our portfolio to a greater extent”


- Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC



ILLEGAL COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES

12 lakh PACL investors get money back: Sebi

Over Rs 429 crore have been paid to more than 12 lakh PACL investors with claims of up to Rs 10,000, said markets regulator Sebi. PACL Ltd had raised over Rs60,000 crore money from the public in the name of agriculture and real estate businesses through illegal collective investment schemes (CISs) over last 18 years.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	79.43	South		
Euro	88.79	African Rand		5.03
UAE Dirham	22.44	Hong Kong Dollar		11.12
Thai Baht	2.76	Japanese Yen		0.8
British Pound	97.41	New Zealand Dollar		51.41
Australian Dollar	54.54	Saudi Riyal		21.97
Canadian Dollar	57.98	Swedish Krona		9.29
Swiss Franc	82.54	Singapore Dollar		56.37

DELHI WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

RapiPay deploys micro ATMs

Hyderabad: RapiPay, a fintech company, has recently launched micro ATMs (mATMs) across India. The company, which is the fintech subsidiary of Capital India Finance Limited (CIFL), firmly believes that for ATM cash withdrawals, micro ATMs are a game changer for Indian consumers, especially the marginalised population located in tier 2, 3 towns and rural India. Moreover, RapiPay's BC (business correspondent) model plays a strong role in building an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by providing self-employment opportunities to lakhs of Indian retailers. Yogendra Kashyap, MD & CEO, RapiPay, said, "We are delighted to share that our micro ATMs have received a tremendous response from the market and we have been able to install over 25,000 devices within a month of its launch. RapiPay micro ATMs are revolutionary in comparison to the conventional ATM machines and offers utmost ease to the consumers enabling them to withdraw cash and do other similar banking activities".

New product from Serta

Hyderabad: Serta, America's mattress brand, announced the launch of Ergo beds in the Indian market. These beds come with an adjustable base mechanism and the mattresses are made of superior five zone, one pin core latex with high-grade specifications for optimal body support and comfort. Crafted in the sleek European design, this bed will freely adjust to any position of activity one desires. "Ergo beds are designed to provide a therapeutic experience. It features the one touch Zero-G technology. It will adjust your legs at a higher level than your heart, which will help to relieve pressure off of your lower back and promote better blood circulation. Because of their adjustable nature these bed frames also offers health benefits like improved healing," the company said.

Ayurveda alliance launched

Hyderabad: Arthur D Little (ADL), a global management consulting firm, unveiled the International Ayurveda Alliance (IAA) in partnership with Begin India Think Tank and HumanStar. Its aim is to reposition India as a global powerhouse for the ancient medical practice of Indian ayurveda. The alliance's main charter is to drive the creation of the largest global repository of Indian ayurveda practices, creating an industry-wide technology platform for diagnostics and measurement of clinical outcomes. Barnik Chitran Maitra, Managing Partner and CEO of ADL India and South Asia, envisioned this as a holistic industry-led exercise to reimagine the Indian ayurveda for the 21st century. "The IAA is the first step in the renaissance of ancient Indian medical systems and aims to catalyse a \$50 billion dollar industry creating over 15 million of jobs for Indians."

Ather 450X to hit Hyd roads

Hyderabad: Ather Energy, an electric two wheeler makers, announced the deliveries of its flagship scooter Ather 450X to begin in Hyderabad from November 2020. It confirmed that by Q1 of 2021, the scooter will be seen on roads across all the 10 cities. The deliveries will begin in a phased manner. Tarun Mehta, co-founder & CEO, Ather Energy, said, "The pandemic did disrupt our timelines by a few months, but we have been able to get back on track with our plans. We used the time to refine our expansion plan and get the ball rolling on our go-to-market strategy".

Gloomy outlook on India

Fitch puts GDP contraction in FY21 at 10.5%, while Ind-Ra, Goldman Sachs forecast 11.8% &14.8% respectively



New Delhi: India's economy is expected to contract 10.5 per cent in the current fiscal before bouncing back in the next financial year, Fitch Ratings said on Tuesday. India's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by a massive 23.9 per cent in April-June and some agencies have predicted negative growth even during the July-September quarter of the current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021). "GDP should rebound strongly in 3Q20 (October-December) amid a re-opening of the economy, but there are signs that the recovery has been sluggish and uneven," Fitch said in its Global Economic Outlook (GEO).

Fitch slashed its GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 10.5 per cent, a huge revision of (-) 5 percentage points compared to the June GEO. The economy, it said, will recover to 11 per cent in 2021-22 largely owing to base effect and grow by 6 per cent in the following year.

Separately, India Ratings and Research, the domestic arm of rating agency Fitch, projected an 11.8 per cent contraction in the Indian economy in FY21, as

against its previous projection of 5.3 per cent contraction in the current fiscal.

The Indian economy is the worst-hit among major economies, American brokerage Goldman Sachs said on Tuesday sharply cutting its 2020-21 GDP forecast to a contraction of 14.8 per cent. It had earlier estimated that the economy of the country, which is now home to the second-largest number of COVID-19 infections, to contract by 11.8 per cent.

Ind-Ra said Indian economy had grown at 4.2 per cent in the 2019-20 fiscal. It projected an 11.9 per cent contraction in the current quarter, followed by a (-) 6.7 per cent growth in the December quarter and 5.4 per cent in the following three months. According to India Ratings, GDP will bounce back to 9.9 per cent growth in FY22 helped mainly by a weak base of FY21. It estimated economic loss in FY21 at Rs 18.44 lakh crore. In another report, Morgan Stanley projected a contraction of 5 per cent in the Indian economy in calendar year 2020 from 4.9 per cent in 2019. The economy will, how-

ever, bounce to 9.5 per cent growth in 2021, it said, predicting that a V-shaped recovery in the global economy was playing out faster than originally thought. "By 2Q21, a global synchronous recovery should take hold, with all engines of the global economy registering strong growth," it said. "Risks to our view include a potential aggressive lockdown in the winter and uncertainty about fiscal policy." India Ratings projected fiscal deficit expanding to 8.2 per cent of GDP in FY21, from 4.6 per cent in the previous fiscal. Fitch Solutions, an affiliate of Fitch Ratings, revised its FY2020-21 central government fiscal deficit forecast to 8.2 per cent of GDP, from 7.2 per cent previously.

In the September, Fitch Ratings said India, UK (-21.7 per cent) and Spain (-22.1 per cent) were the nations that saw the deepest recessions in April-June. "GDP destruction was felt far and wide," it said adding the coronavirus pandemic has become more prevalent in emerging market countries excluding China as the year has progressed. "India imposed one of the most stringent lockdowns worldwide in 2Q20 (April-June) and domestic demand fell massively. Limited fiscal support, fragilities in the financial system, and a continued rise in virus cases hamper a rapid normalisation in activity," it noted. "We do not expect GDP to return to pre-virus levels until 1Q22," it said. During April-June, Fitch said India saw all demand components except government consumption fall massively.



Amazon sort centre in Vizag

New Delhi: e-Commerce giant Amazon India is adding five sort centres and expanding eight such existing facilities in the country to strengthen its capacity ahead of the festive season.

The five new sort centers will be launched in Visakhapatnam, Farukhnagar, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Ahmedabad, according to a statement released here on Tuesday. Apart from these new buildings, Amazon India will also expand eight existing sort centers to increase its overall sortation area to more than 2.2 million square feet, across 19 states, it added.

"With this expansion, Amazon India will strengthen its delivery speed and connectivity for customers and sellers, ahead of the festive season," the statement said. Amazon's sort centers segregate customer packages before they are shipped to delivery stations. The sortation happens based on the location and mode of transportation of the package to customers. A key element of Amazon's logistics network, these sort centers leverage technology and automation to increase the speed of transporting packages for customers and sellers in the country.

Byju's raises fresh funding from Silver Lake

New Delhi: Ed-tech major Byju's has raised fresh funding from Silver Lake and existing investors, Tiger Global, General Atlantic and Owl Ventures.



"We are delighted to lead this investment and partner with Byju and his impressive team of education technology pioneers in their mission to help children in India and around the world achieve their true potential," Greg Mondre, Co-CEO of Silver Lake, said.

Following the closure of schools due to the ongoing pandemic, the company had made content on its learning app free for all students. Over the last few months, Byju's has entered the after-school learning space with the launch of Byju's classes, a comprehensive online tutoring program.

tion from Silver Lake, and existing investors Tiger Global, General Atlantic and Owl Ventures.

Reliance spins off O2C biz

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) new oil-to-chemical (O2C) business unit will hold its oil refinery and petrochemical assets and retail fuel business, but not upstream oil and gas producing fields such as KG-D6 and textiles business, the firm said detailing hiving-off plans.

RIL has started work on hiving off the O2C business into a separate unit for a possible stake sale to companies such as Saudi Aramco. Reliance O2C Ltd will house oil refining and petrochemical plants and manufacturing assets, bulk and wholesale fuel marketing, and RIL's 51 per cent interest in retail fuel joint venture with BP of the UK, according to the Scheme of Arrangement. The O2C unit would also house RIL's Singapore and the UK-based oil trading subsidiaries and marketing subsidiary, Reliance Industries Uruguay Petroquimica SA. It would also house Reliance Ethane Pipeline Ltd that operates a



Working on \$75-bn hiving-off plan for a possible stake sale to Saudi Aramco

pipeline between Dahej in Gujarat and Nagothane in Maharashtra as well as 74.9 per cent stake that RIL holds in the joint venture with Sibur.

RIL's very large ethane carriers, gas pipelines such as one that transports coal-bed methane from its CBM blocks, overseas oil and gas asset holding company Reliance Industries (Middle East) DMCC, and domestic exploration

and production assets would not form part of the O2C unit, it said. Also, RIL's textiles business as operated out of the Naroda site, Baroda township and land, including cricket stadium, Jamnagar power assets, and Sikka Ports and Terminals Ltd would also not be part of the O2C unit. RIL values the O2C business at \$75 billion and has been in talks with Saudi Arabian Oil Co (Aramco) for sale of a 20 per cent interest. "The nature of risk and returns involved in the O2C business are distinct from those of the other businesses of RIL and the O2C business attracts a distinct set of investors and strategic partners," the company said detailing the rationale for hiving off the businesses. RIL said it has been exploring various opportunities to bring in strategic/other investors in the O2C business. "Investors have expressed interest to make an investment in the O2C business," it said without giving details.

India's hiring bleakest in 15 yrs

3% of cos may hire in next qtr, while 54% prefer to stay flat for 1yr: Survey

New Delhi: India is witnessing the weakest hiring sentiment in 15 years with just three per cent companies planning to add staff in the next three months, according to a survey of over 800 employers carried out by ManpowerGroup India.

The Employment Outlook Survey covered 813 firms across India. Employers report cautious hiring plans for the final quarter of 2020. As per the survey, seven per cent of employers anticipate an increase in payrolls, three per cent forecast a decrease and 54 per cent expect no change. Once the data is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation, the outlook stands at three per cent, it said. "Hiring sentiment is the weakest since the survey began 15 years ago, remaining relatively stable when compared with the previous quarter, but declining by 16 percentage points in comparison with this time one year ago," the survey said.

The strongest hiring pace is recorded in the small-sized organisations followed by the medium-sized and large-sized firms. From



a region perspective, north and east regions indicate a more positive outlook compared to the west and south, the survey said. "Post the 'right sizing' exercise aligning themselves to the current market demands, organisations are now looking at improving productivity, new forms of employee engagement, getting furloughed employees back and implementation of technology," said Sandeep Gulati, Group Managing Director of ManpowerGroup India.

These factors are influencing the employment trends this quarter, he added. Gulati further said that "the government is also trying to ease the burden on corporate India by providing various ex-cops from production-linked incentives to changes in the labour law and leniency on tax returns.

We hope to see the impact of these reforms in the subsequent quarters." "Interviewing was carried out during the exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 outbreak. The survey findings for the fourth quarter of 2020 are likely to reflect the impact of the global health emergency, and may be notably different to previous quarters," it noted.

The survey further said that nearly 44 per cent of employers reported that they may return to pre-Covid-19 hiring within the next nine months whereas 42 per cent are unsure about returning back to normalcy from the hiring perspective. When asked about existing members of the workforce that have been placed on a job retention or furlough scheme, 42 per cent of companies suggest they plan to bring them back with reduced hours, however, three per cent indicate these staff will be let go. Globally, employers in 22 of the 43 countries and territories surveyed by ManpowerGroup expect to add to payrolls in the period up to the end of December 2020.

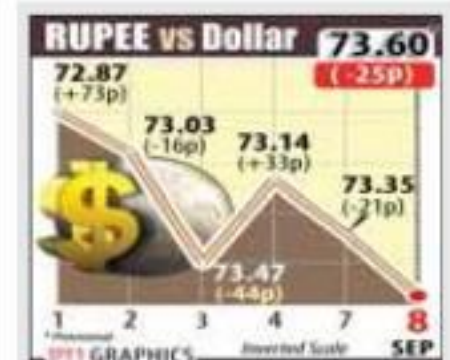
Fag-end selloff pulls key indices lower



Mumbai: Domestic stock markets pared all intra-day gains to close with modest losses on Tuesday as investors dialed down their exposure to riskier assets amid fresh border tensions with China. A sliding rupee and macroeconomic uncertainties further soured risk appetite, traders said. The BSE Sensex overcame a choppy start to gain momentum in the afternoon session, but witnessed heavy selling in the last hour of trade. It finally closed at 38,365.35, down 51.88 points or 0.14 per cent. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 37.70

points or 0.33 per cent to finish at 11,317.35. Tata Steel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 4.13 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, ONGC, Sun Pharma, NTPC and SBI. On the other hand, HCL Tech, Infosys, Reliance Industries, TCS, ICICI Bank and Tech Mahindra were among the gainers, rising up to 2.26 per cent.

"Markets ended lower amid volatility, in continuation to the prevailing corrective phase. Though the bias was positive in the first half, the trend reversed in the last hour of trade and markets witnessed heightened selling pressure largely in response to rising tension between India and China. Besides, the sentiment impacted by sell-off in global markets and weakness in banking stocks. We're seeing a normal correction and it is healthy for markets. The recent dip is in line with profit-taking in the global markets. However, further escalation of border tension between India and China may deteriorate the sentiment further.



Precious metals surge as Re weakens

New Delhi: Gold prices rose Rs 122 to Rs 51,989 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday supported by rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, gold closed at Rs 51,867 per 10 grams. Silver also gained Rs 340 to Rs 69,665 per kg, from Rs 69,325 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were up by Rs 122, supported by rupee depreciation," said Tapan Patel, senior analyst (commodities), HDFC Securities.

The rupee depreciated 25 paise and settled at 73.63 (provisional) against a US dollar on Tuesday amid rise in demand for the American currency from banks and importers. In the international market, gold was trading with marginal gains at \$1,930 per ounce and silver was flat at \$26.91 per ounce.

House bats for Bharat Ratna for PV

- Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao refers the late Prime Minister as Telangana Muddu Bidda
- Demands that Hyderabad Central University be named after PV
- Congress, BJP leaders support the resolution

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana Assembly on Tuesday passed a unanimous resolution demanding Bharat Ratna to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.

Leader of the House and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao moved a resolution in the House urging the Centre to confer Bharat Ratna on PV Narasimha Rao and also to name Hyderabad Central University after the late PM, referring to him as 'Telangana Muddu Bidda'. He also urged the Speaker to have a portrait of PV on the Assembly premises.

The CM recalled the services of PV to the nation in different capacities, including as Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh and union minister. He



"The creation of new employment opportunities and increased foreign direct investments are the result of PV's economic initiatives that promoted India as a global destination for investments. Despite being from the family of landlords, PV brought land reforms in Telangana and donated over 800 acres of his land to the poor," says Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

said PV was instrumental in bringing economic reforms that helped India move on the path of growth at a faster pace.

The creation of new employment opportunities and increased foreign direct investments were the result of PV's economic initiatives that promoted India as a global destination for investments. Despite being from the family of landlords, PV brought land reforms in Telangana and donated over 800 acres of his land to the poor, the CM noted.

Stating that PV Narasimha Rao was the maker of Global India, Chandrashekar Rao said that PV proved his forte by appointing an economist Manmohan Singh as Union Minister of Finance, a person who had no relation with politics. "Today, we are enjoying the

fruits of trees planted by PV in the form of reforms. He is the father of new economic policies and architect of global India," opined Rao.

The Chief Minister said that it was PV who was able to influence the then President of United States of America Bill Clinton to favour India over Pakistan. He put aside the border issue with China and went to Beijing by proposing to develop trade relations with the country and came to an agreement. It is his diplomacy which has enforced the peace to continue along the Indo-China border for around three decades, said the CM.

Information Technology Minister KT Rama Rao said that many Telangana noted personalities including former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao did

not get the respect he deserved in the united Andhra Pradesh.

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka supported the resolution stating that whenever the country gets into economic crisis, they remember PV for his liberal economic policies. "PV recited Vandemataram in Osmania University, which was banned by the Nizam government," Mallu noted. BJP MLA T Raja Singh remembered PV's work from 1991 to 1996.

Several other members also supported the resolution. The ruling party members wanted memorials at places where PV was born, studied and rendered his services. Interestingly, MIM members remained absent from the House when the House was discussing the resolution.



Ministers Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Satyavathi Rathod and G Kamalakar calling on Chief Ministers K Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday

Ministers rejoice one year in office, seek CM's blessings

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Upon completion of one year in office of his Cabinet colleagues on Tuesday, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has asked them to shun group politics and ensure government benefits reach the needy. The CM also warned of public backlash if voters' aspirations were not fulfilled.

Soon after the Assembly adjourned for the day, a few Ministers thronged the CM camp office, Pragati Bhavan, and sought his blessings. The CM shared a lighter moment with the Minis-

ters and enquired about the progress of developmental works taken up in their respective districts. Chandrashekar Rao was also keen to know the implementation of welfare schemes and people's response to them.

Sources said that Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar explained the TRS chief about the party's readiness to fight the elections to Khammam Municipal Corporation in early 2021. Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod also briefed the Chief Minister about the political developments in old Warangal district and the TRS winning

prospects in the election to Warangal Municipal Corporation.

On the occasion, the CM cautioned the Ministers to not to indulge in anti-party or anti-people activities and also instructed them to educate people about the new Revenue Act after the ongoing monsoon assembly session was over.

Backward Classes Welfare Minister G Kamalakar and Excise and Prohibition Minister K Srinivas Goud met TRS working president and IT Minister KT Rama Rao. They exchanged wishes for completing one-year term as Ministers in Chandrashekar Rao's cabinet.

Speaker proves hardliner, brings legislators into line

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy was strict on following time discipline in the House on Tuesday as he did not allow even Ministers to talk for more than their given time. IT Minister KT Rama Rao raised objections to the comments of CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and demanded him to withdraw the words he used. After Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao completed his speech on resolution, the Speaker allowed Mallu to talk on the resolution. However, Mallu's microphone was disconnected as he prolonged his speech than the allowed time and KT Rama Rao was given permission to start his speech. Later, Mallu was again given a chance after Rama Rao's speech for concluding his remarks. Bhatti said that it was not proper to humiliate and insult the members while speaking. KT Rama Rao objected to this and said that it was not good to cast aspersions on the Chair. He wanted the Congress leader to withdraw his words as he too was in the Chair as deputy speaker earlier.

The Speaker reminded the members about concluding their speeches in time. Earlier the Speaker had issued a bulletin asking the members to stick to their time while speaking so that all the members get a chance to speak. While the members were speaking elaborately, the Speaker cautioned them by reminding them about the time. The microphone was also disconnected even when Minister Satyavathi Rathod was speaking on the resolution. Earlier, the Speaker nominated members Hanumanth Shinde, Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, Md Moazzam Khan and Redya Naik as panel speakers for the Monsoon session.

Bhatti accuses KCR of stifling Oppn voice in Assembly

- Says CM doesn't want public issues to be raised in the House
- The CLP leader laments for giving only six minutes to Cong leaders to speak
- Says the Chief Minister is attempting to ensure that the Opposition becomes a non-entity

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Terming the provision of just 6 minutes to Congress during Assembly session, CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the KCR government is doing its best to stop Opposition from raising public issues.

Expressing displeasure over adjournment of the House, Bhatti said that the government doesn't want to hear the public issues and hence trying to stifle any voice from Opposition parties. While expressing anguish

over the way the Congress was being sidelined in the Assembly session, he alleged that the KCR is conspiring to ensure that no public issue comes to discussion. "He is attempting to ensure that the Opposition becomes a non-entity. This kind of actions are detrimental to democratic system being enjoyed by citizens," he lamented.

While referring to MIM, he said that the even though officially designated as main Opposition, the party remains the ally of TRS and would not speak against it, hence the only Opposition that remains steadfast is Congress which should be given enough time to discuss important issues of public concern.

He expressed anguish to the notion that the party would be given specified time based on the strength in the House. "The party which bestowed separate Telangana is being given on only 6 minutes, what more injustice could be done than not given ample time to discuss issues of grave public concern," the Congress leader said.

KCR mortgaged T pride: BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Warangal: It's been a long-pending demand to observe 'Telangana Vimochana Dinotsavam' (Liberation Day) on September 17, BJP's State President Bandi Sanjay said, addressing a huge gathering at the Amarula Stupam near Adalat here on Tuesday night.

The BJP has been demanding the government to observe Telangana Liberation Day since 1998, however, neither the Congress nor the TRS has made any attempt to do so even though it's a matter of 'self-respect', he said, recalling that a large number of people had sacrificed their lives fighting against the Nizam's tyrannical rule and the Razakars.

Equating Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao with the Nizams, Sanjay said that KCR, who mortgaged the pride of Telangana people, needs a DNA test. "Even though the MIM had opposed the formation of separate Telangana, TRS befriended with that party after coming to power," Sanjay said, questioning KCR's rationale behind that



BJP State President Bandi Sanjay at Amarula Stupam near Adalat in Hanamkonda on Tuesday

move. Referring to the importance given by the Maharashtra and Karnataka governments which celebrate Liberation Day on September 17, he said that the successive governments had undermined the significance of the Telangana region.

BJP State chief said that the

TRS government is scared of MIM or else it would have celebrated it officially. He recalled KCR's demand for celebrating Liberation Day during the Statehood movement. But after coming to power he had changed tack because of friendship with the MIM, he added.

KCR ignored all those, who fought for the separate State while befriending the Telangana antagonists, Sanjay said, predicting that TRS would bite the dust and concede power to BJP in 2023.

BJP will prove its mettle in the upcoming by-poll to Dubbaka Assembly and elections to Hyderabad and Warangal municipal corporations, the BJP State President said.

Later, he proceeded to visit Amaradhamam at Parkal in Warangal Rural district. Earlier, he visited Bairanpally buruzu in Siddipet district. He was accompanied by party State General Secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy, Core Committee Member Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, senior leaders Rao Padma, E Rakesh Reddy and others.

Hopeful of win in civic polls, Cong vows to fight against bogus votes

TPCC chief discusses upcoming GHMC elections with party men

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: While assuring the party men that the Congress would win the upcoming Greater Hyderabad municipal elections, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy held that the party must first fight against the bogus votes, which are to be used by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi to go for delimitation as per its designs.



During the meeting to discuss GHMC elections with city leaders, including AICC secretary B Raju, MP A Revanth Reddy, former Minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav and others, the TPCC chief called upon the partymen to ensure that the party's message reaches every denizen under GHMC limits. Raju asked the party leaders for better coordination in every division in the upcoming elections. Former MP V Hanumantha Rao, Shashidhar Reddy, Feroz Khan, Niranjana and others explained the strategies to be adopted in the elections.

Withdraw LRS, Revenue Bill or face protests, warns BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

- LRS is a legal loot of the poor and the middle class, alleges State BJP vice president NVVS Prabhakar
- To launch a Statewide protest against the government's unilateral action

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP on Tuesday demanded the State government to immediately rollback GO No. 131 issued for the regularisation of the layouts and building constructions and its proposed new Revenue Bill.

Addressing the media persons, BJP State vice-president N VVS Prabhakar said that his party has serious objections on both issues and already placed its demands before

the government.

If it fails to address, the party would not hesitate to organise a State-wide agitation against the same, he warned.

The former MLA alleged that the State government is trying to loot people through the means of LRS. About 1.30 lakh applications under the LRS-2017 are pending with the government for clearance, he said.

Besides, the State High Court had also asked the State government to spell

out its comprehensive policy about the LRS.

A Cabinet Sub-Committee had submitted its report on the encroachment of government, endowment and other lands to the tune of thousands of acres.

Prabhakar alleged that in several villages, municipalities and GHMC people were forced to pay "TRS Tax" to the ruling party leaders for layouts, construction of buildings and even for getting water connections.

The poor and middle-class people who have purchased lands with their hard-earned money 15 to 30 years ago are once again asked to pay to legalise their properties, he said.

The BJP leader strongly criticised the decision of the State government to stop registrations and termed scraping of the VRO posts anti-people and anti-government employees measure.

He asked if the government is so concerned why was it woke up after six

years of coming to power? How it is going to take back the thousands of acres from the people who took advantage of the loopholes in the existing Revenue Act.

The BJP leader asked Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to call for an all-party meeting to discuss the newly proposed revenue Bill. Besides, place the new Bill in the public domain for the people to discuss and give their feedback, before taking it up in the State Assembly.



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FIDE declaring India-Russia joint winners is fair, says Harika

RAMADAS P

Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli, dubbed as one of the promising chess champions' in the world, finds the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad title win as very magical and something close to her heart. "FIDE's verdict for joint-winners is fair and unprecedented."

This event has many firsts to its credit apart from being the first-ever Online Chess Olympiad. The Indian team, which topped the group, was the first to make it to the quarterfinals and for the first time ever the title was shared by the finalists — India and Russia.

Playing a considerable number of games overall, the 29-year-old from Guntur produced some phenomenal results while her best win came in an evenly fought contest against Lilit Mkrtchian of Armenia. Harika, who scored 4.5/7 points in Pool matches and 3.5/5 in the knockouts, fought tirelessly for the team and thereby ensured the balance of the side.

Harika had given up schooling to pursue a career in chess at a very young age and there was no turning back thereafter. In 2007, at the age of 16 she was honoured with the Arjuna Award and last year she was felicitated with the Padma Shri for her contributions towards the field of sports.

World No. 9 Harika, a member of the winning side, is one among the three Indian woman who figure in the top 10 rankings, the others being reigning World Rapid Champion Koneru Humpy in number three and R. Vaishali world number 10. It comes at a time when no Indian men players are in the top ten in the world's open section.

The excerpts from the interview

In the history of the Olympiad, India ended its title drought with a dramatic win. As a member of the winning team, how do you perceive this.

I consider this as very magical because it's the first time ever and to be part of the team is really special. When I started in 2004, I was only 13 years, it was my dream to win a team medal in the Olympiad because it is a prestigious one and like the Olympics, we have an Olympiad in chess separately. So that was my dream since the beginning. I won many individual events most of time but this is something close to my heart, always wanting to win as a team and it was going on and on every time. I think that the maximum best we had got is fourth and we missed the podium a couple of times but the format was also different. Men and women tournaments were held separately, so it was a completely different format and in 2014, the men's team fetched bronze.

This year because of the pandemic they changed the format and made it online, each team consisted of six players in a mixed format —men, women, 2 junior Under-20 players (1 girl and 1 boy). The teams also had the provision for six reserves, plus a team captain. The time control for this event was 15 minutes + 5 seconds increment per move. This is the first time ever that we played as a team and as a country. As a whole and to win a title in such a unique event is historical and something really special. In chess history, I am sure that in future also people will say these players won the first-ever chess title in first-ever online Chess Olympiad and that makes it always special for us and obviously India too.

Being part of the winning side how do you see the performance of the Indian team

I am proud to say that our team had some of

29-year-old from Guntur aims for world No.1 spot, urges youth to aim high

the best minds in world chess, including Anand, team captain Gujrathi, Harikrishna and Humpy. We began the tournament on a high note to finish as Group toppers and also emerged as the first team to seal quarters slot. Every player in the team kicked in at some point of the game and there were many strong individual performances too but what stood out was we fared well as a collective unit. Moreover, the tournaments new format comprising of men's, women's and a junior board as one single unit instead of as separate categories also worked in our favour.

In the finals against Russia, India tasted victory in a controversial way. Do you think that the title has lost its sheen for having to share the title with Russia.

It has nothing to do, at our end we were focused in our game, even while playing against Mongolia we had internet issues but we raised no issues as it was from our end. Thereafter, we had over two days of non-playing time during which all steps were taken to ensure uninterrupted internet and power supply and so we had no problem at all in the quarterfinal and semis. In finals too we had no issues but suddenly that day during the last match we lost our internet connection soon after my game for two minutes, even Zoom got logged out. I didn't understand and felt lucky that my game was over but at the same time, everyone experienced a breakage of the network that too at a crucial point wherein we were closing in on a win in the second game of the last three after having drawn the first three games with Russia. It was a global outage where all faced internet failure for a couple of minutes and we got the doubt when most of the people watching online lost connectivity at the same time. That's when we realised that it has nothing to do at our end and it was some other major problem. We made an appeal to the appeal's committee to see what has gone wrong as our players lost on time. On thorough scrutiny they understood that it was a global server breakdown experienced in India and some other countries as well, because of which we lost our crucial match on time. They checked the match position and found out that we were in a similar situation with Russia so it would be unfair if they say to start the game because there is hardly any break time sufficient enough to speak to anyone or check the engine as you know the position already. In a physical game, the players are in front of you and can start again but here in online the options are many for players. So to ensure justice to both the teams which have performed excellently so far, they decided to declare India and Russia as joint winners of Online Chess Olympiad. We were ready to accept any decision, as we all knew we had given our best.

In the quarter too India had a problem, Armenia withdrew from the championship after a similar issue had cropped up. But why is that their appeal was not considered.

On the Armenia side one board had an internet problem and they said it's a server problem but the organisers said the servers are perfectly alright and it was restricted to one board alone,

so their appeal was not considered. Upset over this Armenia walked out of the Olympiad but still we all waited patiently for over two hours hoping the game would continue, but they had packed up. Discontent over the decision, Armenia pulled out of the game, however Fide imposed no penalty/fine for the misbehavior. Whereas, in our match against Russia it was a global outage and moreover we had not put any undue pressure on the committee, we were ready to humbly accept any decision.

You began to pursue chess at a very young age and over the years which one do you consider as more challenging — an individual game or a team event.

Definitely at any day team event is challenging, individual is something you play for yourself, you are not responsible for anyone's result, so you are free to do whatever you want and even if you lose, it's your problem, you get upset, something or the other but when you play as a team you have to be responsible for each one of the members that constitute the whole team be it 6 or 12-member side, depending on the championship and the country also. It is definitely a double responsibility, so I would say a team event is much more stressful than an individual one but that's what makes it fun because it's very interesting to watch for spectators as a team.

This is hopefully the first time you have played from home, so did that in any way influence your game.

It's difficult to say because there are both sides to it, let's say if I am comfortable at home having all the good food in the comforts of home but at the same time since beginning we used to have a battle ground if there is a tournament we go there to fight and be there, we are totally focused and we don't have any other small distraction. When you are at home you have other things to do suddenly and at the same time you have to be so focused as in a tournament outside so this is completely a different game.

So there are some positive points and some negative as well, but in this pandemic this is the best they could do. We were under the supervision of videos and they were checking the screen shares, they had taken all the precautions so that no one cheats. It was a game we were playing over the screen which I think is much more tiring than a normal chess game on the board but at the same time you need to think with the brain so this goes both ways. But in this pandemic at least instead of wasting time this has been the best event under the present circumstances.

Team Members

Vishwanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi (Captain), Aravindh Chithambaram, Srinath Narayanan (Non-playing captain), Nihal Sarin, R Praggnanandhaa, Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, Bhakti Kulkarni, R Vaishali, Vantika Agrawal and Divya Deshmukh

Your achievements in world championships so far?

I have won three bronze medals in the Women's World Chess Championship, in 2012, 2015 and 2017. From India, no woman has ever won a world title in the classical format, but Koneru Humpy is the reigning champion in World Rapid chess. I have clinched Asian Games bronze, won Asian women's championships, Commonwealth women's game and bronze medals in many women's tournaments.

Which format do you prefer or in other words have an edge over?

For me I prefer blitz formats, which is a three minutes game but in general all formats are equal for us and it's just a matter of time duration and obviously based on that we bring out changes in our strategies and moves.

India as such is not short of grand master but are we not lagging behind on the medals' front?

Chess has fetched a lot of medals compared to other sports events for India just that the recognition is a bit less. We have all the major titles in relation to any other sports to say in various categories like juniors, sub-juniors, kids, boys, girls, men and women. We have showcased brilliant performance and as I said recognition is a bit less as it is not an Olympic event, but there is an equivalent to it, which is the Olympiad. I feel that not being an Olympic sport could be one of the reasons why it has not got the recognition or response it deserves. Yet we have a lot of upcoming players with many achievements to their credit. Name any tournament internationally, we have for instance Vishwanathan Anand a five-time world champion, Humpy and myself too have bagged many international medals. Similarly, there are many upcoming talents who have clinched titles in junior, sub-junior categories but the people at large know little or have no knowledge about them.

Do you see a wide gap in the next generation, especially chess?

In men there is not much gap but in women

there is a lot of void with regard to the next generation players, still we have upcoming youngsters like Divya Deshmukh, R Vaishali and Vantika Agrawal who played well in this online Olympiad, but I think a lot of support is needed to reach to new heights.

Could you please tell something about you and what do you plan to do next?

I gave up academics at a young age because of chess and took the game as a profession from the beginning. My degrees are the awards that I won. I couldn't make it in studies as I had too many tournaments and at a young age I was selected for the national senior championship, I was into Olympiad, into junior world championship and was playing international open tournaments. So I didn't get much time to continue my studies, but I am very happy for the right decision that my parents took at that time because of which I am here today. Daily 6 to 7 hours I practice online, study a lot of books relating to chess and check daily games to keep myself updated. My aim is to become world no 1 for which I need to sharpen my skill and hope post pandemic may open up new horizons for me.

Do sportspersons get timely support, what's your take?

Speaking about the support, I am employed at Indian Oil and they are always there to help me and stand as a pillar of strength behind me. I have not received incentives or anything from the government for the past many years but that doesn't bother me as I am used to it. Definitely there is lack of support from the Sports Ministry but from where we came and where we are now, we can survive without their support but there are many budding talents who need to be nurtured. It would definitely be great if they could bring a shift in the policy and ensure that they get what they deserve, giving impetus from the grassroots. The youngsters must be passionate about what they do — "work hard, aim high, believe in yourselves and success will be in your hands".

Italy edge Netherlands to move on top, Poland win in Bosnia

Paris (IANS): Italy extended their two-year unbeaten run as Nicolò Barella scored the winning goal to help Roberto Mancini's side beat the Netherlands 1-0 in UEFA Nations League Group A1. On Monday, Inter Milan midfielder Barella headed home in first-half stoppage time after receiving a long pass from Ciro Immobile, with the goal enough for Italy to clinch three points in Amsterdam, reports Xinhua news agency. The victory also moved the Azzurri to top spot in Group A1 with four points from two games, one point clear of the Dutch, who are playing under interim coach Dwight Lodeweges following Ronald Koeman's departure for Barcelona, and third-placed Poland, who came from one goal behind to beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-1 in Monday's another action. Elsewhere, Poland, who were playing without leading striker Robert Lewandowski, registered their first victory of the tournament in Zenica.

Hari Hrajinovic put Bosnia ahead in the 24th minute with a penalty before Kamil Glik's powerful header leveled the score for the visitors just before the break. Kamil Grosicki's header in the 67th minute sealed Poland's win.

2016 Doping: Wrestler Narsingh still feels it was 'sabotage', CBI finds nothing

CHETAN SHARMA

New Delhi (IANS): Ace wrestler Narsingh Yadav, who was banned for four years for failing dope tests in 2016, still believes that his food and water was spiked at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Sonapat, and questioned the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for the delay in catching the culprits. However, sources told IANS that the CBI had filed the closure report in a court last year after finding nothing "fishy" in the case. "Narsingh's lawyers had filed a protest petition after our closure report. But till date, we haven't received any information from the court. There was nothing fishy nor was it a case of sabotage," said a source. Narsingh, however, claimed that the investigative agency was still working on the case. "I have full faith that I would be proved innocent. I got to know that the CBI had filed a closure report of my case, but when I spoke to the officials they said that the case was still on. The CBI is still inquiring. I don't know what took so long for such a big investigative agency to sort out my small case. I will wait for justice," said the Maharashtra wrestler.

The 31-year-old grappler has now joined the national camp at the SAI centre in Sonapat, the same place where he claims his life



"changed drastically". He is undergoing a mandatory 14-day quarantine period. The national camp is scheduled to begin from September 15. I have come back to the place where it all started. My life changed from that day. I faced a lot of criticism in these four years, but thanks are due to my family and friends who stood by me. For any athlete a four-year ban is a long time and that too if you are innocent," he said. "I am more careful now. I eat food provided by SAI in my room. I don't want to take any chances now."

The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics has given a chance to Narsingh to still live his dream of competing in the mega sporting spectacle one more time. His dope ban got over in July and he is now deeply focused on qual-

ifying for the Olympics next year. "By the grace of God, I have got another chance and will not let it go like this only," he said.

Yadav had qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics after having won a bronze at the World Championships. But Sushil, who had missed the 2016 Summer Games qualification event due to an injury, asked for a trial between himself and Narsingh and moved the Delhi High Court.

After Sushil's appeal was rejected, it was confirmed that Narsingh would go to Rio. However, Yadav failed two anti-doping tests. He tested positive for methandienone, which he asserted was "sabotage" his chances of competing at the Olympics, following which he was given a clean chit by National Anti-Doping Agency.

PV Sindhu to play in Thomas and Uber Cup

New Delhi (IANS): World champion PV Sindhu, who had earlier stated that she will not be participating in the Thomas and Uber Cup, has now consented her availability for the tournament scheduled to be held in Denmark from October 3 to 11.

On Monday, Sindhu changed her original decision to pull out of the event due to personal reasons after Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma requested her to play.

"I have requested Sindhu to join the team as we have a favourable draw and have the best chance to take a shot at the medal at the Cup," Sarma wrote on Twitter.

"She has agreed and will prepone her family function so that she can be part of the Indian team and play for the country," he added.

Sindhu has been having separate training sessions at the Pullela Gopichand academy in Hyderabad, where the national badminton camp is currently being held.

26 Indian shuttlers have currently been shortlisted and the final team selection will be done on September 17 for the upcoming tournament.

Das, Chopra & Gopichand to spearhead Future Fearless Champions challenge

Mumbai (IANS): India's top sportspersons, including track and field champions Hima Das and Neeraj Chopra and national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, will spearhead the IDBI Federal Future Fearless Champions Challenge, a part of the Fit India movement, to be held from September 13 to 27.

Launched on August 29 to mark the first anniversary of the Fit India initiative, the event is expected to see over 15,000 people take part in it from across the country and beyond.

Organised by NEB Sports, in association with Athletics Federation of India (AFI), the participants will be required to run or walk a minimum of 2.5 kms and a maximum of 10 kms on each of the 15 days to cultivate and spread the habit of leading an active lifestyle on a daily basis.

In addition, to motivate and encourage participants to further improve their fitness, 15 of India's top sportspersons across different disciplines will share simple but useful exercises every day that can be done after the daily walk/run. These include Surya Namaskara (Pullela Gopichand, India's badminton coach), Plank Leg Lift (Reeth Abraham,



Track and Field), Sumo Squats (Najeeb Aga, Judo), Camel/Us-trasana (Rashpal Singh, Marathon), Dynamic Hamstring Stretch (Souab Verma, Badminton), Wall-Sit (Nisha Millet, Swimming), Push-ups (Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, Shotput), Figure-4 Stretch (Hima Das, Sprinter), Mountain Climbers (Avinash Sable, 3000mtr Steeplechase), Butterfly Pose (Annu Rani, Verma, Badminton), Hip Bridge (Poonam Belliappa, 100m hurdles), Side Plank Dips (Shivpal Singh, Javelin), Cool-down Flow (Sudha Singh, 3000 mtr Steeplechase) and Chandra Namaskara (Neeraj Chopra, Javelin).