



WINDOWS



Advance and Basic Mountaineering Courses held at Mountaineering and Skiing Institute at Auli, in Chamoli district, Tuesday. Over 100 ITBP personnel were trained in basic and advanced mountaineering courses by the World-renowned Mountaineering and Skiing Institute, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, M&SI, Auli, Uttarakhand for adventure sports and training

Man gets corona twice with more severe symptoms second time

New York (IANS): A 25-year-old man in the US has caught Covid twice, a study published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases journal showed, indicating exposure to the virus may not translate to total immunity. According to the Lancet, it is the first confirmed case of a US patient becoming reinfected with Covid-19, and the fifth known case reported worldwide. In a case study, the patient from Washoe County in Nevada, had two positive tests for SARS-CoV-2, the first on April 18, 2020, and the second on June 5, 2020, separated by two negative tests done during follow-up in May 2020. "Genomic analysis of SARS-CoV-2 showed genetically significant differences between each variant associated with each instance of infection. The second infection was symptomatically more severe than the first," the study authors from the University of Nevada, wrote.



DELHI RECORDS SEASON'S WORST AIR DAY SO FAR

New Delhi (IANS): The air quality index of the national capital turned foul and mounted to 'very poor' category at 304 on Tuesday morning, with northwest district recording the most polluted air, according to the Central pollution Board's data. Tuesday was the season's worst air day so far.

The air pollution reaches a crescendo in Delhi-NCR every winter, when pollution from stubble burning combines with the suspended water droplets in the lower atmosphere to form a thick blanket of noxious smog, thus creating health hazards for the residents. As per the pollution control board, out of the 36



A farmer burns paddy stubble in a field, in Amritsar district on Tuesday. Farmers continue the practice, a contributor to air pollution in winter season, despite several steps taken by the government

pollution monitoring stations, the air quality index in as many as 19 stations is in the 'very poor' category, 14 stations recorded the index in the 'poor' category, one recorded it in the 'moderate' category and two were non-functional.

The area near northwest Delhi's Wazirpur recorded the highest AQI at 379, followed by 364 in Dwarka Sector 8 and Mundka. Lodhi road logged the cleanest air in the capital city at 193.

Delhi's neighbouring areas -- Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Greater Noida -- have also recorded 'very poor' quality of air. Greater Noida's air is currently the most polluted amongst all.

Continued on Page 5

UK unveils 3-tier Covid alert system

London (IANS): UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has unveiled a new three-level Covid-19 alert system that will be implemented across England, with the levels being decided according to the infection rates. "We must act to save lives," Xinhua news agency quoted Johnson as saying while addressing while the House of Commons, or the Lower House of Parliament, on Monday evening. "We cannot let the virus rip."

The current set of rules are "complex to understand and enforce", he said, so the new system is designed to "simplify and standardize" the curbs. The alert system comprises three levels: "Medium", "High" and "Very High".

"Medium" includes the current restrictions already in place, including the Rule of Six and the 10 hospitality curfew, Johnson said. Most areas currently under local restrictions will "automatically" enter this level, he said. "High" level reflects the local lockdown rules that are in place in parts of England currently, which primarily prevents people from socializing with other

households indoors, but the so-called "support bubbles" will still be permitted.

"Very High" level is for places where "transmission rates are rising most rapidly" and the National Health Service (NHS) "could soon be under unbearable pressure".

This level will see venues such as bars and pubs closed unless they can operate as restaurants, while people are also banned from socializing with other households both indoors and in private gardens, with local residents being advised against travelling in and out of these areas.

Tirumala Brahmotsavam sans devotees

Covid SOPs force TTD to conduct celebrations in 'Ekantham'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

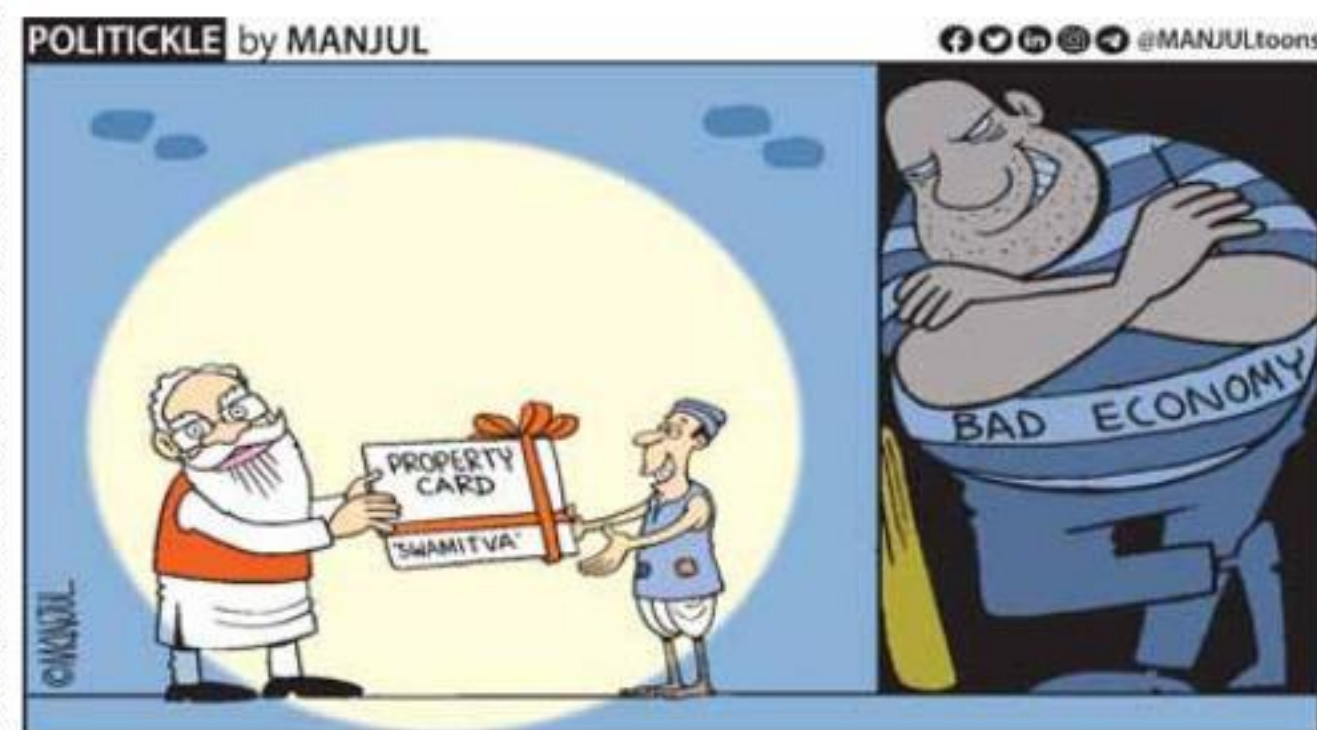
Tirupati: In a major development, Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams went back on its earlier decision and decided to conduct Navaratri Brahmotsavam in 'Ekantham' without the participation of devotees.

A meeting of TTD Executive Officer, district collec-

tor and police officials held on Monday evening decided to conduct the 9-day Brahmotsavam of Lord Venkateswara which would begin from October 16 without processions. As a result, the Brahmotsavam would now be performed inside the hill temple with only the high priests and top officials taking part following co-

rona virus protocols. The TTD, which governs the ancient hill shrine, had earlier this month decided to organise the annual festivities by conducting daily processions around the sprawling temple complex with the participation of a few thousand devotees those who obtained the worship tickets online. EO Dr KS Jawa-

har Reddy citing the recent centre and state governments Covid guidelines stipulating the conduct of religious and cultural events with a gathering of not more than 200 participants, decided to revoke the earlier decision of the board to permit limited pilgrims for Navaratri Brahmotsavam. Continued on Page 5



GDP will shrink 10.3% in 2020: IMF



India expects 500 mn doses of Covid vaccine by July 2021

New Delhi (Agencies): A vaccine against Covid-19 will likely be available in India by early next year and there is a possibility that the shots may come from more than one source, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said on Tuesday. "We're expecting that early next year we should have vaccine in the country from maybe more than one source. Our expert groups are formulating strategies to plan on how to roll out the distribution of the vaccine in the country," the Union Health Minister said during a meeting of the Group of Ministers.

Currently, four Covid-19 vaccines are in advanced stages of pre-clinical trials in India. The

21st GoM meeting was held on Tuesday after over a month's gap, as the last meeting had taken place on August 30. It was stated that hopefully by July 2021, some 400 to 500 million doses of the vaccine will be made available for 20-25 crore people in India.

"Keeping a close pace with the potential availability of vaccine, a plan of action on which sections are to be given priority has been discussed. Importantly, it would be monitored through a scientific approach," Dr Harsh Vardhan revealed about the strategy being discussed on vaccine distribution.

"For this, strategies that have been adopted by the world be it CDC, US, are being studied con-

tinuously. Digital platforms are also being prepared for the same," the health minister added.

The GoM was informed about the stage by stage preparation of the vaccine (from cold chain equipment to nonvaccine equipment).

"Approximately 200 vaccine candidates are being tried out globally. Around 151 candidates are at the pre-clinical trial phase and around 42 are at the clinical trial phase. Globally there are nine vaccine candidates who are at clinical trial phase II & III (slightly advanced stages), among who three are from India," said the minister.

It is expected that the vaccine

may be available in the country from more than one source. Expert groups are formulating strategies to plan on how to roll out the distribution of the vaccine in the country.

Currently the Covid-19 recovery rate in India is near 87 percent while the fatality rate is at 1.53 percent. More than one million samples are being tested daily for detecting the infection in the country in the 1,927 laboratories, including private and government.

Keeping the upcoming festive and winter season in mind, Vardhan further advised people by saying, "As winter and festive seasons are approaching the entire coun-

try should strictly follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour such as wearing mask, observing social distancing and maintaining respiratory hygiene."

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (MoS) Home Nityanand Rai, MoS Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul, and expert teams for strategy formulation were among others were present in the meeting on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had formed the GoM in February keeping the rising Covid-19 pandemic threat in mind.



Foreign Secretary of India Harsh V Shringla and diplomat Vani Rao with US Ambassador to India Ken Juster and US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun, during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday

India, US too cautious with 'Elephant in Room' China

New Delhi (ANI): While referring to China as the "elephant in the room", visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun said here on Monday that India and the United States have been "too cautious" towards China's reaction to the strategic ties between New Delhi and Washington.

Speaking at the Ananta Centre India-US Forum event, Biegun said: "Of course, as we advance in this direction, there is an elephant in the room: China. Last week, in advance of Secretary Pompeo's meeting with Minister Jaishankar and their Japanese and Australian counterparts in Tokyo, I read remarks by the esteemed, retired Indian diplomat Ashok Kantha. I was particularly struck by a comment he made."

"I could not agree more with Ambassador Kantha. We have been too cautious. Last week's important and successful Quad ministerial leaves the United States confident that perhaps, just maybe, we can say that we are present at the creation of those strategic linkages to which Ambassador Kantha refers," he added.

External Affairs minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had last

week met for the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, US) ministerial dialogue in Tokyo last week.

Biegun further said that Washington appreciates New Delhi's strategic autonomy adding that there is "enormous opportunity" in the United States' security relationship with India.

"In thinking about the future, it is no secret that I see enormous opportunity in the United States' security relationship with India. India has a strong and proud tradition of strategic autonomy, and we respect that," the US Deputy Secretary of State said.

He added that the Trump administration does not "seek to change" India's traditions. "Rather we want to explore how to empower them and India's ability to defend its own sovereignty and democracy and to advance Indian interests, across the Indo-Pacific region. As the United States assesses our own interests and how they intersect with India's, we have seen the conditions emerge for an organic and deeper partnership--not an alliance on the post-war model, but a fundamental alignment along shared security and geopolitical goals, shared interests, and shared values," Biegun added.

'Covid-free' Trump offers to 'kiss everyone' at election rally

Washington (ANI&PTD): Less than two weeks after he tested positive for corona virus, an exuberant United States President Donald Trump made a comeback to the campaign trail with a rally in Sanford, Florida stating that he felt "so powerful" that he wanted to "kiss everyone" in the audience.

Walking off Air Force One at the Orlando Sanford International Airport onto a stage, Trump played down the corona virus and said: "22 days from now we're going to win this state, we're going to win four more years at the White House." "I feel so powerful," said Trump.

"I'll walk into that audience. I'll walk in there, I'll kiss everyone in that audience. I'll kiss the guys and the beautiful women ... everybody," he said.

Prior to his speech Trump tossed masks into the crowd.

In a memorandum issued on Monday night, White House Physician Dr Sean Conley said that Trump "has tested negative, on consecutive days" using the Abbott BinaxNOW antigen card.

"Repeatedly negative antigen tests, taken in context with additional clinical and laboratory data, including viral load, subgenomic RNA, and PCR cycle threshold measurements, as well as ongoing assessment of viral

cultural data, all indicate a lack of detectable viral replication," he said. "This comprehensive data, in concert with the CDC's guidelines for removal of transmission-based precautions, have informed our medical team's assessment that the President is not infectious to others," Conley said. At the rally, the President said that he was in great shape and that he was not an "old person", labelling the people who criticise this statement as "sickest of them all".

"I am not an old person. I am very young and I am in such perfect shape. I am in such great shape that and they said, Donald Trump misrepresented today



again. He said he was in great shape, but he was young. These people are the sickest of them all," he added. In his address he said that United States has been teaching China as "they have

never been taught before".

"We have been beating China, we have been beating everybody. Until the plague came, we were teaching China like they never have been taught before--they

know it and they have told me that. They thought it could never happen. We have been beating China and we have been beating everybody," Trump said.

Trump also slammed his counterpart, Joe Biden, for calling him a xenophobic for "locking down" China, "which was a terrible thing he called me."

"When I locked down China, which was in January, ultimately admitted that I am right. Nobody acted as fast as I did. We saved millions of lives. We are at 210,000 deaths -- we shouldn't be at one. It is China's fault; they allowed this to happen, they allowed this to escape," he added.

Trump again reiterated the

fact that his administration would be delivering a vaccine for COVID-19 adding that "no country" has recovered the way the US has. "Under my administration, we are delivering a safe vaccine and a rapid recovery like nobody can. No country in the world has recovered the way we have recovered -- economically or otherwise," he said.

Resuming his re-election campaign from the battle ground State of Florida on Monday, Trump who is trailing behind his Democratic rival Biden in the run up to the November 3 elections, said that this is the most important election in the history of the United States.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



TAAPSEE PANNU
@TAAPSEE

Some days you really appreciate your natural skin. There's a different glow to natural, healthy skin. Just let your skin do its thing!



Positive parenting for your teens

This is a time of changes for how teenagers think, feel, and interact with others, and how their bodies grow. During this time, your teen is developing his unique personality and opinions. Relationships with friends are still important, yet your teen will have other interests as he develops a more clear sense of who he is. Talk with your teen about their concerns and pay attention to any changes in their behavior. Ask them if they have had suicidal thoughts, particularly if they look sad or depressed. Asking about suicidal thoughts will not cause them to have these thoughts, but it will let them know that you care about how they feel.

Seek professional help if necessary. Show interest in your teen's school and extracurricular interests and activities and encourage him to become involved in activities such as sports, music, theater, and art. Encourage your teen to volunteer and become involved in civic activities in their communi-

ty. Compliment your teen and celebrate his efforts and accomplishments. Show affection for your teen and spend time together doing things you enjoy. Respect your teen's opinion. Listen to her without playing down her concerns. Create opportunities for him to use his own judgment, and be available for advice and support.

If your teen engages in interactive internet media such as games, chat rooms, and instant messaging, encourage her to make good decisions about what she posts and the amount of time she spends on these activities. Talk with your teen and help them plan ahead for difficult or uncomfortable situations. Discuss what he can do if he is in a group and someone is using drugs or under pressure to have sex, or is offered a ride by someone who has been drinking. Respect your teen's need for privacy.

Safety first

Talk with your teen about the

dangers of driving and how to be safe on the road. You can steer your teen in the right direction. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death from unintentional injury among teens, yet few teens take measures to reduce their risk of injury. Remind your teen to wear a helmet when riding a bike, motorcycle, or all-terrain vehicle. Unintentional injuries resulting from participation in sports and other activities are common.

Talk with your teen about suicide and pay attention to warning signs. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth 15 through 24 years of age. Talk with your teen about the dangers of drugs, drinking, smoking, and risky sexual activity. Ask him what he knows and thinks about these issues, and share your feelings with him. Listen to what he says and answer his questions honestly and directly.

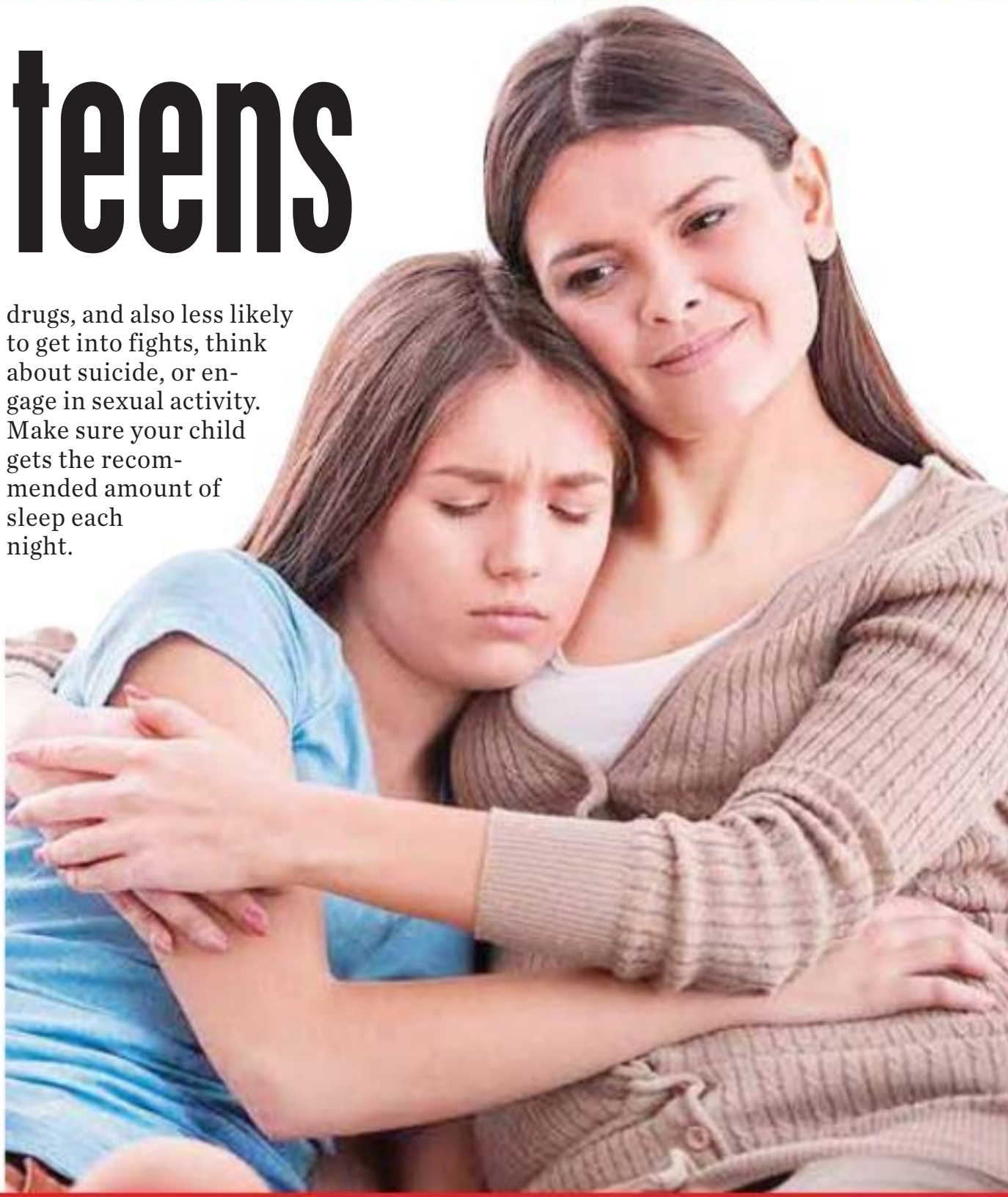
Discuss with your teen the importance of choosing friends who do not act in dangerous or un-

healthy ways. Know where your teen is and whether a responsible adult is present. Make plans with her for when she will call you, where you can find her, and what time you expect her home.

Healthy bodies

Encourage your teen to get enough sleep and physical activity, and to eat healthy, balanced meals. Make sure your teen gets 1 hour or more of physical activity each day. Keep television sets out of your teen's bedroom. Set limits for screen time, including cell phones, computers, video games, and other devices and develop a family media plan.

Encourage your teen to have meals with the family. Eating together will help your teen make better choices about the foods she eats, promote healthy weight, and give family members time to talk with each other. In addition, a teen who eats meals with the family is more likely to get better grades and less likely to smoke, drink, or use



Ananya Panday shares her fashion preferences

PUJA GUPTA

Bollywood newbie Ananya Panday defines her style as "comfortable, easy and less is more". In a round of rapid fire the "Student of the Year 2" star reveals more about her fashion choices and essentials.

Your style?:

Comfortable, easy and less is more!

Your mantra to relatable fashion?

Fashion that appeals to my varied personalities and moods.

Your fashion preferences?

It depends on my mood. Lazy – comfy outfit, Mad weird - quirky outfit, Diva, glam – Elegant outfit.

Your go-to accessories?

Accessories that lift your looks – a fun watch and a stylish bag are my go to accessories.

Who do you think is the most stylish actor/actress in Bollywood?

I think everyone has their own unique style and sense of fashion but if I had to pick one it would probably be Deepika (Padukone). She's experimental, chic and effortlessly cool.

Which fashion trend are you obsessed with?

Folds and pleats.

Your three fashion essentials?

A nice pair of fitted jeans, sneakers and of course a super chic

THE BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS REVEALS MORE ABOUT HER FASHION CHOICES AND ESSENTIALS

watch to add some glam.

Your go-to outfit?

My go to outfit is probably shorts, oversized hoodie and sneakers.

Have you always want to do something like designing the Fastrack Ruffles Collection of watch and bags ?

Yes, it is something that I've always wanted to take a shot at. This is the second collection that has been launched under this collaboration. The first collection called 'Fit Outs', was meant for the fun and quirk-loving young girls while the Ruffles collection, will strike a chord with those unconventional divas who want to make a bold statement with a

who revel in the spotlight and don't care how many feathers they ruffle. The Ruffles collection of watches and bags from Fastrack is power packed with elegance and glamour. It's inspired by pleats and folds in pastel shades, a popular choice for the chic young girls of today and a rising fashion trend.



Bigg Boss 14: Sara Gurpal becomes first contestant to get evicted

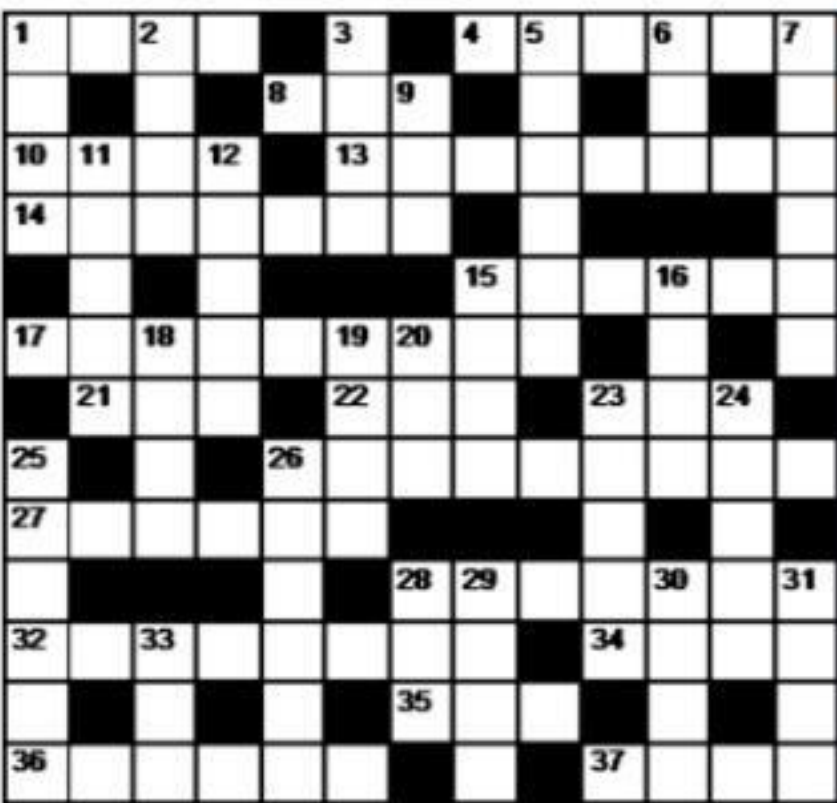
Punjabi singer Sara Gurpal is the first contestant to get evicted from the latest edition of reality TV show, Bigg Boss.

Sara received maximum nomination in the normal task along with Nishant Singh, Rahul Vaidya, Shehzad Deol, Eijaz Khan, Abhinav Shukla and Jaan Sanu for the elimination on Monday night.

Then, the seniors Hina Khan, Gauahar Khan and Siddharth Shukla -- were given a special power by Bigg Boss. They had the power to eliminate any of the contestants from the house. Initially, Hina picked Rahul's name and Gauahar suggested Nishant for eviction. However, they later collectively decided to evict Sara.

The highlight of Sara's journey has been her sweet bond with her fellow fresher Shehzad Deol.

After Shehnaaz Gill and Himanshi Khurana, she was the latest Punjabi singer to enter "Bigg Boss" as a contestant. Sara came into the spotlight when Punjabi singer Tushar Kumar claimed she is married to him.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 13

CROSSWORD

Across

- One of TV's Simpsons (4)
- Sea monster from Greek mythology (6)
- Pair or a couple (3)
- Maui guitars (4)
- Incoherent (8)
- Contort (7)
- Collect (6)
- Town in New Mexico where the first atomic bomb was developed (3,6)
- Pledge (3)
- Lofted ball (3)
- Yank (3)
- Likewise (9)
- Halve (6)
- Heavy (7)
- Furtive (8)
- Seep (4)
- Over in verse (3)
- Most bashful or most timid (6)
- Prefix for small (4)

Down

- Extol (4)
- Goes to law (4)
- Cat sound (4)
- Venomous creepers ? (6)
- Hawaiian garland (3)
- Presages or portends (6)
- Cereal grass (3)
- Russian ballet company (5)
- Drinking-tube (5)
- Asian desert (4)
- A unit of time (4)
- Male offspring (4)
- Got down from a bus or a train or a plane (4)
- Mother (3)
- Argentinian dance (5)
- Showiness (5)
- Mistreats (6)
- Climbs (6)
- The ___ : Quadrophonia rockers (3)
- Peepers (4)
- Arizona native (4)
- The Abominable Snowman (4)
- East Anglian city (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 13

UP shocker on Dalits: 3 sisters hurt in acid attack; man forced to drink urine

Gonda (IANS): In a shocking incident, three minor Dalit sisters received burn injuries when an unidentified attacker threw acid on them in Paska village in Gonda district in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Two of the girls received minor burn injuries while the third was

injured in the face. Kajal, 17, Mahima, 12, and Sonam, 8, were sleeping on the roof of their house when they were attacked by an unidentified person. No arrest has been made so far.

The victims were admitted in a district hospital for treatment. The village come under the



Paraspur police circle jurisdiction.

The girls' father Ram Avatar maintained that he had enmity with no one and was clueless about the motive behind the crime.

Gonda Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey said

that police was questioning the girls and police teams set up to track down the culprit.

In another case of atrocities on Dalits in Uttar Pradesh that came to light on Monday, a 65-year-old man was allegedly forced to drink urine and beaten up, along with his son, in Lalitpur district last

week. Following a complaint by the victim's family, the main accused has been arrested, while the search for others involved in the case is on, the police said.

The victim Amar, a resident of Roda village in Lalitpur, told ANI that one Sonu Yadav forced him to drink his urine a few days

ago. "When I refused, he attacked me with a stick. He also attacked my son with an axe. We then complained against him to the police," Amar said.

Superintendent of Police Mirza Manzar Beg confirmed that a few people in Roda thrashed the two villagers.

India shows declining trend in daily spike

New Delhi (IANS): India's tally on Tuesday mounted to 71,75,880 with a spike of 55,342 coronavirus cases, the lowest since August.

India recorded around 55,000 cases on July 31 (55,078), August 4 (52,050) and August 18 (55,079).

India is showing a trend of declining average daily cases over the past five weeks. After a month, on October 9, active cases fell below the 9 lakh mark and have steadily followed a downward slope since, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has said.

Out of the total cases so far, 8,38,729 are currently active, 62,27,295 have been discharged, while 1,09,856 lost the battle against the pandemic.

While the recovery rate stands at 86.78 per cent, the fatality rate is 1.53 per cent, the data from the Ministry data showed.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 15,35,315 cases including 40,514 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 10,73,014 sample tests in a single day on Monday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 8,89,45,107.



A civic worker wearing a protective suit sanitises a makeshift worship venue of Hindu goddess Durga in Kolkata

Johnson & Johnson pauses vaccine trial

Washington: Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine trial has been paused while the company investigates whether a study participant's "unexplained illness" is related to the vaccine shot.

The company said in a statement evening that illnesses, accidents and other so-called adverse events "are an expected part of any clinical study, especially large studies," but added that the company will set up a safety monitoring panel to determine the participant's cause of illness. The company has said it will begin its investigation by first determining if the participant received the vaccine or a placebo. The company declined to reveal further details about the illness, citing the participant's privacy.

Temporary pauses in large medical studies are relatively common, however, the coronavirus vaccine has raised the stakes in these kinds of complications. Companies are required to investigate any serious or unexpected reaction that occurs during drug testing. Given that such tests are done on tens of thousands of people, some medical complications are expected.

Maha Guv, CM in unholy row over temples reopening

QUAID NAJMI

Mumbai (IANS): In an unprecedented development, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray were engaged in an ugly 'letter-war over the issue of reopening of temples in the state.

Making a case for permitting people to worship in temples - closed since the lockdown was clamped on March 23 -- the Governor asked a pointed question to Thackeray: "You have been a strong votary of Hindutva... Have you turned 'secular' yourself, the term which you hated?"

Koshyari pointed out how Thackeray had "publicly espoused" his devotion for Lord Ram by visiting Ayodhya after taking charge as CM and later performed the pooja at the famed Pandharpur's Lord Vitthal and Goddess Rukmini Temple on Ashadhi Ekadashi, July 1.

"It is ironic that while on one hand, the state government has permitted the opening of bars, restaurants and beaches, on the other hand our Gods and Goddesses have been condemned to stay in the lockdown," Governor Koshyari said.

In an equally strong response, Thackeray said what the Governor mentioned about 'Hindutva' was absolutely correct. "However, I don't need a certificate on Hindutva from anybody, nor do I have to learn it from anyone.

Media freely commenting on pending cases amounts to contempt, SC told

New Delh (IANS): Attorney General K.K. Venugopal on Tuesday submitted before the Supreme Court that media comments on pending cases are an attempt to influence judges and their outcome, which is equivalent to contempt of court.

The Centre's top law officer contended before a bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar that issues should be clubbed with the questions of law formulated by the top court in 2009 contempt case against advocate Prashant Bhushan. He added that the top court has already upheld that any attempt to influence a sub judice matter will amount to contempt.

The AG said: "Print and electronic media are freely commenting on pending cases, which is an attempt to influence the outcome of a matter." He added that this amounts to contempt and asked the top court to examine the role of media. Venugopal emphasised that the trend in media has taken serious proportions these days. Citing a plea in connection with a bail matter, he added when a bail plea of an accused is scheduled for hearing, a TV channel flashes conversations (between accused and someone), which is very damaging to the accused.

Citing the Rafale matter, Venugopal said when this matter was scheduled for a hearing before the top court, then there were big articles and commentaries with extracts of certain documents, which was published in the morning of the same day.

He contended these issues should also be examined when the top court decides issues connected with the kind of speech and publication amounts to contempt.



Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing Bhushan, disagreed with the AG's suggestions to club these issues in the Bhushan's contempt matter.

Dhavan added issues related to sub-judice cases are already covered by the Sahara judgement, and clubbing these issues together would eventually complicate the matter under consideration of the court.

Dhavan quoted Lord Reid asking, when Shylock's case is on, can we tell the Press not to talk about it?

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing journalist Tarun Tejpal, said the contempt law should be seen in the backdrop of modern communication system.

The AG said he will hold discussions with Dhavan and Sibal in the matter.

The top court also requested senior advocate Harish Salve, who was amicus curiae since 2009 in the matter, to assist the court on the next date and adjourned the hearing in the matter on November 4. The case is in connection with suo moto contempt proceedings initiated by the Supreme Court in 2009 against Bhushan over his remarks against the judiciary in an interview with 'Telhelka' Magazine.

IAS officer rejoins work with her new-born baby

Ghaziabad : In commendable dedication to duty, Modinagar sub-divisional magistrate Saumya Pandey, who was appointed the nodal officer for Covid in Ghaziabad district this July, rejoined office a fortnight after she gave birth, her baby girl in tow.

Speaking to ANI, Pandey said, "I am an IAS officer so I have to look after my service. Due to Covid-19, there is a responsibility on all. God has given women the strength to give birth to her child and care for the child. In rural India, women do their household and work related to their livelihood in pregnancy during the near days of delivery and after giving birth they take care of the child and also manage their work



and household. Similarly, it is the blessings of God that I am able to do my administrative work with my three week old girl child."

"My family has supported me lot in this. My whole Tehsil and Ghaziabad district administration which is like a family to me gave me support during the pregnancy and post-delivery. District Magistrate and administration's staff supported me throughout my pregnancy period as well as after my delivery," she said. The SDM said, "From July to September, I was the Nodal officer for COVID in Ghaziabad. In September I took 22 days-leave during my operation. Two weeks after the delivery, I joined the Tehsil."

UK considers infecting people with Covid to aid vaccine efforts

London: Britain is moving closer to carrying out studies that would intentionally infect healthy people with the virus to help researchers in their quest for Covid-19 vaccines, and thousands of volunteers like Greer, a chemistry student at Durham University in northeast England, are ready to go.

Alex Greer said he'd rather put himself directly in the path of the coronavirus than get blindsided by the disease after an evening at the pub or with friends. It's a scenario that could soon become a reality.

Open Orphan Plc, parent of human challenge trial specialist



hVivo, has said it's in talks with potential customers including the U.K. to conduct tests of Covid shots.

Such studies may help speed development of vaccines and give scientists new insights into a disease that has spread to more than 37 million people

globally, but would expose participants to a threat for which there's no cure. Numerous questions about the virus -- which volunteers would likely have sprayed into their noses -- remain unanswered. Even young people could face dangers.

"I can't lie and say it doesn't cross my mind," said Greer, 20. "The long-term consequences of Covid aren't fully researched yet and that does need to be taken into account. But I think the potential successes of the trials outweigh that small risk to myself."

Despite recent strides in

treating Covid-19, experts disagree on whether challenge trials are justifiable. One uncertainty is why some young and otherwise healthy people end up with complications months after experiencing mild symptoms, according to Seema Shah, a bioethicist at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern University.

"This would really cross a line that people have drawn in terms of when it's ethically acceptable to do challenge studies," she said. "In the past, it's been about diseases that we know a lot more about. We're still learning so much about Covid-19."

No beef for tigers at Guwahati Zoo: BJP

Guwahati: Hardline Assam BJP leader Satya Ranjan Borah has a problem with serving beef - not just to people, but also to carnivorous animals in zoos, specifically tigers.

A small group of protesters led by Borah - claiming to be anti-beef activists - attempted to block the main gate at Guwahati Zoo as vehicles carrying beef for tigers were trying to pass. Zoo authorities managed to disperse them with help from the police, official sources said.

The protesters shouted slogans demanding a carpet ban on cow

slaughter. "In Hindu society we give importance to protection of cow, but it is the staple food for carnivores in the zoo and part of government supply. Our objection is - why serve beef? Why not other meat?" Mr Borah asked reporters.

The BJP leader then offered a "solution". "The zoo's sambar deer population is so much that the males have to be kept separately (to slow down breeding). The zoo can achieve self-sufficiency if sambar deer meat is used to feed the carnivores," he declared.

"The vehicles carrying meat were stopped briefly by miscre-



ants. We called the police to disperse them. Food for carnivores is recommended by the Central Zoo Authority. As per the law we cannot give the meat of zoo animals to the carnivores. Also, sambar deer is a wild animal and we cannot kill wild animals," Tejas

Mariswamy, Divisional Forest Officer, under whom jurisdiction of the zoo falls, said. Incidentally, sambar deer are listed as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and are protected under Schedule-III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Later Assam Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said the animals were fed beef as it was "essential" for their nutrition. He said that some states opted to feed carnivores buffalo meat but since Assam does not have that stock, beef was given as per the centre's guideline.

K'taka cops book Kangana for tweet on farmers

Tumakuru: A case has been registered against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in Karnataka over her tweet allegedly targeting farmers protesting against contentious central farm laws, the police said on Tuesday.

The case was registered by the police in Tumakuru district on Monday based on the recent order of a local court.

It has been registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, including 108 (abet-

ment), wanton vilification upon a community (153A) and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace (504), the police said. The Tumakuru judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) court had on October 9 directed the police to register an FIR on a complaint by lawyer L Ramesh Naik who contended that a September 21 tweet on the actor's Twitter handle @KanganaTeam had hurt him.

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Noble thought on auction theories

The Nobel Prize in Economics for 2020 has been announced. The most-celebrated award in economics, technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel, went to Robert Butler Wilson Jr and Paul Robert Milgrom, both American economists affiliated to Stanford University, for their seminal works in auction theories. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards Nobel Prizes annually, cited the achievements of the duo in improving auction theory and their inventions of new auction formats, for bestowing the rare honour. Wilson, 83-year-old Adams Distinguished Professor of Management-Emeritus at Stanford University, has received the honour for his pioneering research on what is called winner's curse in the auction theory. His works in this area showed why 'rational bidders tend to place auction bids below their own estimate of the common value'. According to his works, bidders tend to quote less in auctions, fearing that paying more might lead to

losses. His co-winner Milgrom who did his doctoral thesis under his guidance expanded the auction theory, incorporating private values that bidders would include in the bids in addition to common values. That way, he succeeded in evolving new auction formats that were used in practical applications globally. For instance, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of The US relied on inputs from Paul Milgrom when it started auctions for telecommunication spectrum instead of allocating it on the specific merits of each applicant. Since the auction process began in July 1994, the US Treasury mopped over \$60 billion through 87 spectrum auctions. Many other countries also emulated this auction methodology. India also took the auction route when it sold spectrum for the first time in 1994. It continued the practice till 2008 when it allocated a second generation (2G) spectrum on a first-come-first-serve basis with 2001 price as the base. Widespread allegations were levelled against officials, politicians and companies in-

volved in the allocation process, leading to what is known as 2G spectrum scam. Allocation of coal blocks in similar fashion around the same time, also kicked off a big row. It is widely believed that 2G and coal scams led to defeat of the Congress-led UPA government in 2014. India's 2G and coal scams underline the need for adopting the auction process while allocating natural, public resources. But instead of collecting upfront license fees, governments should go for a revenue sharing model as India did sometimes. However, there is a school of thought that emerging markets and developing countries did not benefit from auction theories and innovations in that domain the way the US did. Anyway, the Stanford duo rightfully deserve the Nobel Prize as innovations in auction theory that they brought in benefitted the world at large. The Nobel honour will encourage more research in this realm of economics, leading to plenty of new innovations and novel concepts in the auction theory space. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences capped this year's Nobel Prizes week by honouring Wilson and Milgrom. It's an apt celebration of an economic theory with multiple practical applications.

60 years of Bangalore Little Theatre

VIKRAM PHUKAN

In December last year, one of Bengaluru's oldest theatre groups, the Bangalore Little Theatre (BLT) brought out three volumes of its extended repertoire of original plays in English. A book series edited by one of its founder-trustees, Vijay Padaki, the volumes have been published as part of an outreach initiative that marks 60 years of BLT's existence.

Starting off with a staging of Molière's farce The Prodigious Snob in 1960, its performance roll has grown to include as many as two hundred productions, including a wealth of plays specially commissioned and developed as part of an in-house play development programme. More volumes from this well-spring are expected by the end of the year. This extensive undertaking was carried out in association with the New Delhi-based independent publishing house, Vitasta, and is part of a welcome trend in which theatre companies themselves are spearheading the publication of plays — an otherwise languishing publishing genre urgently in need of just such a fillip.

In Mumbai, the Being Association theatre group have been regularly publishing the winning entries of its Sanhita Manch Hindi playwriting contest in yearly volumes; and under-25 theatre movement Thespo, which has revealed itself as a significant microcosm of the active ferment of youth theatre in India, recently brought out a multilingual edition of its most outstanding plays selected from over two tumultuous decades of festival programming. Also in Bengaluru, the experimental theatre outfit, Indian Ensemble, has been running the First Draft Ideas Lab, a writing programme for playwrights that has embarked on its second edition last month, after the first yielded a rich haul of four new plays last year.

The BLT offerings include a book of classic plays, another of children's plays while a third is dedicated to 'The History of Ideas', a programme of new plays that the group has been running for more than a decade. In a note that accompanies each edition, theatre director Anmol Vellani sums up the effort thus, "There is a hunger for strong dramatic texts in India, where theatre production has grown far more rapidly than playwriting. In that context, these volumes will be seen as yet another precious gift that BLT has given to the theatre community."

The selections are well-researched, engaging and layered narratives, bearing all the hallmarks that lend themselves to a finesse of presentation in terms of articulated themes, even if seeped in conventional modes of theatre-making. Many of these plays have become legacy productions for BLT, some with a provenance that goes back decades. Peculiarly, some are dedicated rather than



credited to the writers who came up with the initial manuscripts. This acknowledges the role played by workshopping teams of actors, technicians and directors in shaping the material into stage-ready productions. In a way, the BLT volumes are collections of plays in which the playwright, a figure traditionally influential in theatre, is but a cog in a wheel.

This system of attribution by omission is likely a slippery slope, in which authorship is regarded as subsumed by the creative labour of the collective, with none of the 'many owners' listed as co-authors.

In contrast, rather than in-house plays, the Sanhita Manch invites nationwide entries of unpublished manuscripts (usually in Hindi, but expanded to include English and Marathi submissions this year), with the mandate of showcasing the best scripts as workable productions helmed by experienced directors in an annual festival, apart from publishing each year's selections. "Our experience with an outside publisher for the first edition wasn't great in terms of distribution and publicity, so we decided to bring out future editions ourselves," says co-founder Rasika Agashe. Rangkalam - Sanhita Manch Ke Chuninda Natak, brought out in 2017 by StoryMirror, a self-publishing service, included Ashish Pathak's acclaimed Agarbatti, a stirring reimagining of the real-life destinies of the widows of the Behmai massacre, and Rajesh Kumar's Sat Bhashe Raidas, in which Ravidas, the 15th-century Bhakti mystic, is canonised as a resurrected Dalit icon.

Perhaps, one of the only publishing houses to have acquitted itself exceptionally well when it comes to literary material associated with the performing arts — with books on critical theory, play scripts, stage memoirs and biographies — is the Kolkata-based Seagull Books. Not surprisingly, it was founded in 1982 by a theatre practitioner, Naveen Kishore. Their flagship series, New Indian Playwrights, took off with English translations of plays by regional Indian playwrights. Over the years, the series has amassed a roster of almost fifty titles featuring works by the illustrious likes

of Habib Tanvir, GP Deshpande, Badal Sircar and many others. It is a prolific stretch of curation that significantly seems to have ebbed in the past decade especially when it comes to the limited breed of Indian playwrights coming of age in the new millennium. In its stead, have arrived international 21st-century performance texts as part of the exquisitely hand-crafted In Performance book series, edited by scholar Carol Martin, which continues the imprint's commitment to "document drama and art movements off the beaten track", as Kishore explained of Seagull's raison d'être in a January interview.

That contemporary Indian playwrights are conspicuous no-shows in the Seagull catalogue or in the rosters of other publishers, could be attributed to many speculative factors — exacting standards of publishing, a dwindling readership in terms of both quality and quantity, the paucity of cutting-edge Indian works in an international idiom, or recent works not yet acquiring cultural stature in a theatre ethos that privileges 'the tried and tested' over new material (which might explain why so many playwrights of the current generation have taken to directing their own plays). Indeed, it could also be due to a paradigm shift in theatre, from the playwright-centric or auteur-driven universe of the extant past to the new collaborative and exploratory processes — devised theatre, a participatory documentary theatre that commandeer 'found texts' and verbatim material, interactive and improvised performances sans a script, audience-responsive works — perennially poised to become the new normal.

Indian Ensemble's artistic director Chanakya Vyas, under whose stewardship the First Draft mentoring programme runs, is understandably circumspect about publishing plays that have emerged out of a workshop process. "They are likely to find a stronger footing only after rigorous on-the-floors trial and error," he says. Indeed, this is evident from the programme's title, a reference to a manuscript's incipient origins, rather than it being a finished product. For instance, Acharya's Bhes, originally writ-

ten in Gujarati, was a First Draft offering exploring caste identity in the context of Bhavai theatre, the popular folk form of western India, and has evolved considerably since emerging from the programme. Even its modalities of engagement are distinctive, First Draft follows in the footsteps of Rage Theatre's now historic Writers' Bloc, a playwrights' programme run in association with London's Royal Court Theatre, that worked towards "cultivating writers — undiscovered, emerging and established."

Since 2002, the initiative has seen four editions and umpteen (41 in all) plays in multiple languages. Three plays from its first edition were compiled into Sightlines, a volume brought out by Hachette India. To coincide with its British premiere, Majumdar's Kashmir-set The Djinns of Eidgah (showcased at Writers' Bloc but developed under the Royal Court's International Playwrights' Programme) was published by the London-based Oberon Books. Titles by Writers' Bloc alumnus Anupama Chandrasekhar have been printed by Nick Hern Books, a North American "independent trade publisher of dramatic literature." Imprints like these, dedicated to new writing in theatre, simply do not exist in India. That a mere tenth of Writers' Bloc plays, many of which have enjoyed impressive theatrical runs, have been published is a stark indicator of how difficult it is for writers of this generation to gain a foothold on the posterity ensured by the written record.

Perhaps it is all too well that the Sanhita Manch has been quick to strike while the iron is hot, and Agashe considers the previously unperformed winning plays in her competition to be fully realised works that already stand on their own. "Different directors are bound to interpret these texts differently, and there will be many versions on stage, but we wanted to preserve the writers' original vision," she explains.

Exploring another avenue, Vyas has been toying with the idea of making Indian Ensemble's in-house plays, including his Algorithms, a sombre documentary-style take on Uber drivers 'tethered to the system' in Bengaluru, and many titles by the prolific Majumdar, available as digital volumes. "This might be more cost-effective and could expand into becoming a publishing service specially catering to theatre groups," he says, of an idea whose time has perhaps come. It might conceivably open the floodgates for a new kind of publishing that will go a long way into preserving latter-day texts currently missing from the public archive, while allowing theatre-makers to access contemporary writings that provide a greater understanding of the zeitgeist, and take them to audiences hungry for new interpretations and perspectives.

(This article was first published on www.firstpost.com. Reprinted with their permission)

Congress disregard for minorities in Bihar ridiculous

Bihar elections are fast approaching, and the Congress seems to have no minority candidates for the first phase of polls. People in the State feel that the grand old party has lost the confidence of the minority voters, which is reflected in their ticket distribution. The Congress has not won many seats from the State in the last elections and JDU, LJP, RJD got the seats, as Muslims prefer those parties. The Congress thinks minorities are like bonded labourers and believes that people will do as the party thinks. Everyone can see the way they have treated minorities. Nov voters are intelligent to take their step.

Kishore Kumar P, Patna, Bihar

Covid-19 norms thrown to wind

Despite facing risks from corona pandemic, people are neglecting to follow the precautions to keep away from the virus. One wonders if people feel it a fashion or unaware at the time of wearing masks that they wear masks only up to their mouths instead of covering their noses as well. Where is social distance when people come out to public areas like bus stands, markets etc.? I faced an incident which made me dumbstruck. I was travelling in a bus. A man, who sat beside me did not wear mask. He was coughing besides he was chewing pan. I asked him to cover his face at least with a handkerchief. He looked at me top to bottom and threw a careless look. I changed my seat. Where are the imple-



LETTERS

mentations of corona pandemic norms? Though the governments are trying their level best to control this pandemic, people are taking very lightly and are becoming victims. It is our responsibility to take care of ourselves and it is our duty to take precautions for our loved ones.

K Rajeev Kumar, Kurnool, AP

Migrant workers, a neglected lot

This is with reference to the article 'RTI#15: Govt clueless on migrant workers (Oct 13). As usual, the government announced lockdown without any sort of preparation to address the issue of migrant workers, stranded students and tourists. As a result, migrant workers who were mostly hailing from States like UP, Bihar, Odessa, Chhattisgarh and MP were paid neither by their employers nor by their human power suppliers. Having waited for a few days finding no one to care them, they ventured to walk down all the way to reach their hometowns. I could personally witness this scene by being a part of the small group that extended possible assistance to those walking from Bengaluru to Gorakhpur and various places in Bihar. This group extended its voluntary service for around 25 days during which lakhs of trekkers consisting of small children to aged women were seen moving with luggage, facing all sorts of odds. This is definitely a historic event that has portrayed the callous attitude of the rulers and managements towards the section of workers whose

contribution to the GDP is reported to be the maximum. The government's claim of not having any data further confirms this casual approach towards wealth-creating class.

A G Rajmohjan, Anantapur, AP

India needs to bag laurels too

The Nobel Prize in different categories has been announced for the year 2020. The Nobel Peace Prize goes to the World Food Programme and the rest of the awards given to the European and US intellectuals and scientists. But our country even could not get such a single Noble Prize despite having good scientists and literary people. India has the second largest population in the world but no representation by winning the Nobel Prize is a cause of concern. We need to focus more on research work in different fields like Physics and Chemistry to prove a high standard internationally so that we can have the hope of winning the prestigious Nobel Prize. The European and US countries still dominate by getting the Nobel Prize for the year 2020. Actually, these countries provide good infrastructure and other required facilities to the researchers so that they can give good results. India is also not far behind in research work, but persistent efforts will definitely bring laurels to our country by winning the Nobel Prize in the coming years.

Syed Nisar Mehdi, Hyderabad

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Kim Jong Un tears show North Korea's hardships

JOSH SMITH

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared to shed tears at the weekend as he thanked citizens for their sacrifices, in the most striking demonstration yet of how he is relying on his 'man of the people' persona to tackle his country's deepening crises.

Though the young leader has consolidated his rule over the isolated nation with ruthless purges, North Korea watchers say he has also sought to portray himself as a more traditional political leader than his eccentric father, Kim Jong Il.

Speaking at a military parade on last Saturday, Kim became emotional as he paid tribute to troops for their response to national disasters and preventing a coronavirus outbreak and apologised to citizens for failing to raise living standards.

"Kim's modesty and candour, and his tears and choking, were all highly unusual, even for someone who publicly acknowledges shortcomings and has an established pattern of being expressive," said Rachel Minyoung Lee, an independent researcher and former open-source North Korea analyst for the U.S. government.

The speech, which was clearly carefully designed to resonate with the domestic audience, likely cemented Kim's image as a competent, charismatic leader who also has a human side to him, she said.

Kim - who broke into wide smiles when huge new ballistic missiles were displayed in the parade - blamed North Korea's continuing economic hardships on international sanctions, the coronavirus crisis and a series of damaging typhoons and floods.

Since succeeding his father in 2011, Kim has made economic progress a cornerstone of his agenda. He also met with U.S. President Donald Trump, forming an unprecedented personal relationship that included flowery letters.

But ambitious plans for international trade, construction projects, and other economic measures have stalled in the face of sanctions imposed over his nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

The economy took a further hit when North Korea closed its borders to nearly all traffic due to the pandemic, and summer typhoons caused flooding that further threatened food supplies.

"Our people have placed trust, as high as sky and as deep as sea, on me, but I have failed to always live up to it satisfactorily," Kim said, at one point appearing to choke up. "I am really sorry for that."

Kim said the country's success in preventing a coronavirus outbreak and overcoming other challenges was a "great victory achieved" by the citizens. "Our people have always been grateful to our party, but it is none other than themselves who surely deserve a bow of gratitude," he said. So much focus on citizens was a major departure for such events, where speeches are usually filled with more ideological themes and lauding of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, said Lee.

"The speech was clearly intended to be for and about the people," she said. In contrast to his remote father, Kim has taken his wife to political summits with foreign leaders, often stoops to hug children and mingles with workers at public appearances.

Some of this folksy approach has shaped his public response to the country's economic challenges, said Benjamin Katzefz Silberstein, a North Korean economy expert at the US-based Stimson Centre think-tank. "Kim has been more personally present and visible at disaster reconstruction sites and the like, and he's prioritised a lot of the symbolic construction projects designed to show economic progress," he said.

But despite some early moves towards embracing markets, Kim is not an out-and-out reformer and his policy prescriptions have tended to draw on the North Korea playbook honed by his father and grandfather, state founder Kim Il Sung, Silberstein said.

The United Nations says that, under Kim, North Korea has continued to quash basic freedoms, maintaining political prison camps and strict surveillance of its citizens. Kim had his uncle executed, according to state media, and the United States accused his government of using the chemical warfare agent VX assassinate his half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, in 2017, an allegation Pyongyang has denied.

Last week Kim called on his country to embark on an 80-day "speed battle" - a campaign to attain economic goals before a congress in January to decide a new five-year plan.

Such campaigns, which involve citizens performing "voluntary" extra labour, have been described by some residents as "one of the most exhausting, irritating parts of everyday life", Silberstein said.

"Kim's essentially left with tears, apologies, speed battles and squeezing out funds wherever they can be found," he said.

Kim became visibly emotional during a speech at a military parade over the weekend as he thanked troops for their sacrifices and apologised to citizens for failing to improve their lives.

At a speech on Saturday during celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of its ruling Workers' Party, Kim thanked thousands of gathered troops for responding to recent damaging storms, and for helping to prevent a coronavirus outbreak in the country.

In video footage edited and released by the State television station, Kim appeared tearful and at one point seemed to choke up.

Kim said he was grateful that not a single North Korean had been infected with the virus, a claim that U.S. and South Korean officials have previously cast doubts on. The impact of anti-coronavirus measures, international sanctions, and several typhoons combined to prevent the government from following through on promises to improve citizens' lives, Kim said.

"My efforts and sincerity have not been sufficient enough to rid our people of the difficulties in their life," he said. "Our people, however, have always believed and absolutely trusted me, and supported my choice and determination, whatever it is." North Korea's economy, already severely restricted by international sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, took a further hit as the country shut down nearly all border traffic in an effort to prevent a coronavirus outbreak.

The United Nations has said that as much as 40 percent of the population faces food shortages, which may have been exacerbated by severe summer floods and typhoons.

In a scene common to many such events in North Korean, most people in the audience also had tears streaming down their faces.

SEB turns heat on smugglers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) set up by the state government specifically to control smuggling of sand and liquor registered 19,567 cases involving 19,123 persons, seized 2,58,448 litre of illicitly distillation (ID) liquor and destroyed 57,21,704 of F J wash (used in making of arrack), seized 2,08,795 kg jaggery as well as 2,956 vehicles in the last four-and-a-half months.

ID liquor brewing is prevalent in all the districts, but rampant in East Godavari, Kurnool, Visakhapatnam and Chittoor. The prevalence of activity is identified based on topographical conditions like dense forest areas, islands in the rivers and others, where the bootleggers can continue their illicit trade and the adjacent state borders where tribal people are living, said Vineet Brijlal, commissioner, SEB while speaking over phone on Tuesday.

Despite knowing the illegality and health problems associated with manufacturing and consumption of the illicit liquor, the accused are prepar-



- Registers 19,567 cases against 19,123 persons involved in brewing of illicit liquor
- Commissioner Vineet Brijlal says though arrack brewing is prevalent in all the districts, it is rampant in East Godavari, Kurnool, Visakhapatnam and Chittoor where topography is suitable for the activity

ing it and selling as they are getting huge profits. For instance, to manufacture a litre of ID liquor, it costs just below Rs 50, but it is sold 10 times higher, at not less than Rs 500.

Vineet Brijlal said SEB and police joint raids were being

conducted to check the brewing and intelligence collection has been increased. So far, the police have detained six persons under the PD Act, in connection to these ID liquor cases.

“Police opened about 1,500 rowdy sheets and history sheets

on the accused. The habitual offenders and the suspects are being bound over. As on date, at least 10,000 accused are under bind over. Raids on illicit brewers in the islands of Krishna, Godavari rivers and the forest areas by taking risk were also being conducted to prevent the brewing. Raids against the sellers are also intensified to curb consumption,” he explained.

He added that at the border areas, special teams were formed and joint raids were carried out to prevent inflow of ID liquor.

In districts, raids are being conducted with all the district staff on the notorious ID centres to create fear among the sellers. Route watches at vulnerable points are being conducted at irregular intervals to prevent illicit transportation of ID liquor.

A constant surveillance and vigilance is kept on the jaggery merchants, stopping them supply of jaggery to the manufacturers of arrack. General awareness on the ill-effects of consumption of ID liquor in ID liquor-prone areas is being conducted, he said.

YSRCP rues ‘suppression of news’ by some media



Ambati Rambabu wonders how a section of media can hold discussion directed against Chief Minister writing a letter to CJI when it doesn't publish the news

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: YSRCP Sattenapalle MLA and official spokesperson Ambati Rambabu said that there was a deliberate attempt by a section of the media to throw objectivity to winds to please their vested interests. He said the news of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy writing a letter to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) was

widely published and telecast throughout the country but the TDP-friendly media ignored the press conference of Ajeya Kallam, Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister, during which he released the letter. “The bias has been there for long, this time it was exposed more glaringly,” he pointed out.

The values took a beating with the same media houses conducting debates and doling out opin-

ions against the Chief Minister, he said.

Rambabu said such lopsided opinions and campaigns were run against Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy as well in the past but they all failed as he emerged victorious finally.

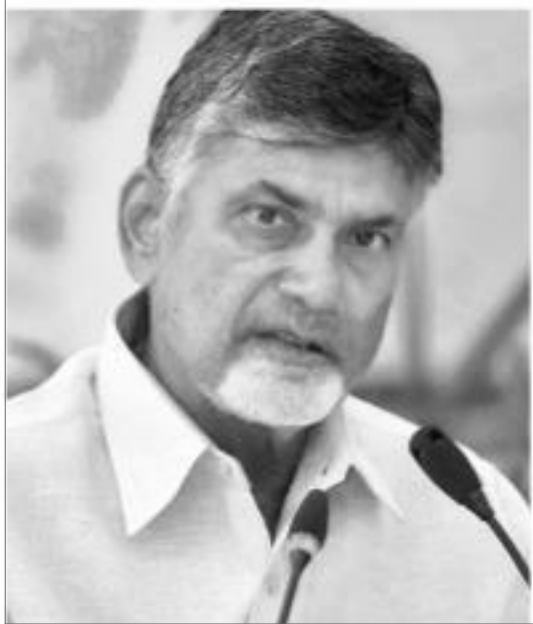
It cannot be different this time and the thumping mandate Jagan Mohan Reddy has got is a tangible proof, he added.

It was only to support the TDP and the defeated leader N Chandrababu Naidu that a section of the media was suppressing official news, he claimed.

The YSRCP leader asked how the media could conduct debates against the issue without even publishing the news.

He asked the media to play a constructive role instead of suppressing official news released by the government.

Why Jagan making a fuss on trials, asks TDP chief



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu expressed surprise over Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy raising a hue and cry over the speedy trials of cases involving the elected representatives. Addressing a meeting of party

- Says this direction was issued four years ago by SC but Jagan is making a fuss about it as if it is only aimed at him
- States that the CM is setting a new precedent of accused writing letters against the judges
- Points out that Lalu, Sib Soren, Madhu Koda who also faced cases, never resorted to attacks on judiciary and judges

leaders on Tuesday, Naidu pointed out that Supreme Court ordered disposal of cases against people's representatives within a year, four years ago. Those orders were now being implemented but the AP Chief Minister was making an unnecessary fuss about that.

The TDP chief said that the daily

trials of cases were taken up against 4,500 elected leaders across the country now. Jagan was showing great worry as if these daily trials were taken up only in his cases. He even lost his balance of judgement and began audacious attacks on even the courts and judges, Naidu added.

“The country has never seen before the kind of defamatory remarks and social media posts being posted against the judges in Andhra Pradesh. All these were being encouraged by the prime accused in 16 charge sheets, Jagan Reddy. Unfortunately, the main accused are writing letters to the judges. Lalu Prasad Yadav, Jayalalitha, Madhu Koda, Om Prakash Chautala, Sib Soren and others never made revenge attacks on the judiciary, but Jagan Reddy has resorted to new practice,” said Naidu.

Bangla ship drifts from anchorage point

- The 3,000-tonne cargo vessel is here to load cargo at VPT
- Due to rough weather, the ship with 15 crew runs aground

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: A 3,000-tonne Bangladeshi cargo ship MV Maa drifted from the anchorage point and ran aground near Tenneti Park in Visakhapatnam. The empty ship arrived two days ago to load cargo

at Visakhapatnam Port Trust. Owing to the rough weather conditions caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, the merchant ship with Bangladeshi crew of 15 members ran aground from the anchorage point.

According to the port officials, both the anchors of the ship were snapped on Tuesday morning. They also informed the Coast Guard officials to extend necessary assistance for further course of action.

As a part of the initial assessment, a technical team from Mercantile Marine department and Coast Guard inspected the cargo vessel. The team will further assess whether the ship can be towed out or not.

People who came to know of the ship being drifted to the coast arrived in large numbers at Tenneti Park to capture the ship in their cameras.

₹2 cr worth red sanders logs recovered from tank

- Smugglers dumped the precious wood in at tank canal at Rajampet as they could not smuggle them to other states owing to strict Covid curbs on transport
- A team of Task Force team led by RI Krupanandam acting on a tip-off on the dump takes up combing in the area on the forest fringe leading to the finding of the red sanders dump in tank canal
- Task Force SP Anjaneyulu says logs weighed about 3 tonne

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: In a major haul, red sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) on Tuesday retrieved 100 red sanders logs that were dumped by the smugglers in Annasamudram Racha cheruvu (tank) canal in Pullampeta mandal in Kadapa district.

The smugglers dumped the logs in the tank canal near the forest so as to take them out later at a convenient time for smuggling them to other states to supply them to international smugglers.

A team of Task Force led by RI Krupanandam acting on credi-



Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force personnel retrieving red sanders logs from a tank canal in Pullampeta mandal of Kadapa district on Tuesday

ble information on the red sanders dump took up combing operation in the area on the forest fringe leading to the finding of the red sanders dump in the tank canal.

The task force personnel from Rajmapeta and Koduru engaged in the massive combing exercise were surprised to find out the huge quantity of one hundred red sanders logs which are of high quality having huge demand in the international market.

Task Force senior officials including SP G Anjaneyulu DSP Venkataih who reached the area inspected the recovery operation of the red sanders logs from the huge dump underneath the water taking much time as the personnel have to struggle to fish out the logs one by one and to

carrying them through the slushy soil.

Later, speaking to media, the Task Force SP said the logs weighed about three tonne and were brought by the smugglers few months back from the forest. They were forced to dump it in the tank as they were not able to smuggle them during Covid time due to restriction on the vehicular movement.

He said that combing operations in Seshchalam forest have been intensified while the rough the clock watch also being maintained at all entry and exist points of the forest to check smuggling of red sanders.

It may be noted here that after a lull, the smugglers resumed red sanders smuggling with relaxation in Covid restrictions.

State logs 4,622 new Covid cases

Amaravati: State on Tuesday recorded 5,715 recoveries and 4,622 new Covid-19 cases, while 35 more people succumbed to the infection in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday.

With this, the state Covid-19 table showed a gross 7,63,573 confirmed cases, 7,14,427 recoveries and 6,291 deaths so far, leaving 42,855 active cases, according to the latest bulletin. West Godavari added 752, Chittoor 705 and East Godavari 691 new cases in 24 hours. Kurnool, which was once the state topper in coronavirus cases, now has the lowest number of only 1,253 active cases. It added the lowest number of 88 new cases in 24 hours. Chittoor reported seven new Covid-19 casualties, Krishna five and Kadapa and Prakasam four each. After 67.02 lakh sample tests till date, the overall infection positivity rate slid to 11.39 per cent, the bulletin said.

Cong accuses Jagan of betraying farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Tuesday advised Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to understand the contents of the electricity reforms bill first before advising the farmers to understand the power meter to the agriculture pump sets. APCC president Dr Sake Sailajanath said in a statement here that the state government, instead of opposing the power reforms, is backstabbing the farmers to curry favour with the Centre in order to obtain loans.

He recalled that several states and farmers by and large are opposing the power reforms. “But the AP government is prostrating before the Centre betraying the farmers,” he said.

The Chief Minister, the ministers and the YSRCP leaders should

- Advises him to understand power reforms before sermonising to farmers about meters
- PCC chief Sailajanath points out many State govts and farmers are opposing the Central electricity bill

learn that instructing the officials to arrange power meters by November is against the interest of the farmers. He wondered as to what was the hurry to install meters even before the bill took the shape of enactment. “It is only to please the Prime Minister and powers-that-be at the Centre,” he ridiculed.

The PCC chief said that the chief minister who promised remunerative price for the farm produce and price stabilization fund in the interest of farmers, had totally forgotten his promise.

PEOPLE GEAR UP TO TRAVEL BY TRAINS

V PRADEEP KUMAR

Tirupati: Leaving behind fears of coronavirus, people are gearing up to travel to their preferred destinations during the coming Dasara festival. Since the Janata curfew on March 22, the movement of trains was stopped across the country and has been partially restored from June 1 with 200 trains only.

Out of these, Tirupati has got one train-Rayalaseema express from Tirupati to Nizamabad. Even that train has witnessed poor patronage all these days with 300-400 passengers travelled daily amid Covid norms. The number has gradually increased to 600 and to 1000 recently.

Due to poor patronage amidst the fear of Covid-19, no other train was run from Tirupati till some time back. Subsequently, the railways has introduced a few more

- In view of the Dasara, people began booking train tickets
- A few more trains, including Kerala express between Trivandrum to New Delhi and Duronto Express between Yeshwantpur-Howrah junction will pass through Vijayawada
- A double decker AC train will run between Tirupati and Visakhapatnam from Oct 14

trains, among them Kerala express from Trivandrum to New Delhi runs via Tirupati. Another train Duronto express between Yeshwantpur to Howrah junction touches Renigunta station. These two trains pass through Vi-



jayawada. In view of Dasara festival, a double decker AC train was announced which will run between Tirupati and Visakhapatnam from October 14.

As the festival will be celebrated from October 21 to 25, all the sleeper class tickets in Rayalaseema and Kerala expresses were already booked for travel from October 17 and now they have a huge waiting lists. While the AC tickets are available in

Rayalaseema express, but for Kerala express it is showing waiting list. The status for various classes of Duronto express also shows waiting list. Only the double decker train from Tirupati to Visakhapatnam which has only seating facility without berths is having many vacant seats. As no new trains can be announced immediately, people have no option but to look for alternative modes of travel.

Delhi records season's worst air day so far

Continued from P1

Another neighbour Gurugram, on the other hand, has the lowest AQI at 289 in the 'poor' category. Nationwide, as many as nine cities have very poor quality of air. Rajasthan's Bhiwadi tops the charts, followed by Greater Noida, Panipat, Bhagpat, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Delhi, Agra and Noida. The System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) categorizes air quality in the 0-50 range as good, 51-100 as satisfactory, 101-200 as moderate, 201-300 as poor, 301-400 as very poor and above 400 as severe.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the spike in pollutants is a result of low wind speeds, along with an increase in stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana.

Pawan Gupta, a Universities Space Research Association scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre, said that farm fires are more widespread in Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and also in parts of border areas in Pakistan. NASA's satellite imagery also corroborated his contentions.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Govt will transform India into mfg hub

“The central government has been working on multiple fronts to position India as a truly global manufacturing hub with a strong focus on exports. The PLI scheme for mobile and select electronics will have multiplier impact for both direct and indirect jobs

– Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant



SURVEY

India among top 3 choices for investments

India has emerged as one of the top three choices for investments in the next 2-3 years, with more than two-thirds of respondents in a CII survey of multinational companies (MNCs) citing the country as their number one choice for future investments. India will be leading manufacturing hub by 2025.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.76	South	
Euro	90.81	African Rand	5.11
UAE Dirham	21.97	Hong Kong Dollar	10.88
Thai Baht	2.71	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	99.53	New Zealand Dollar	51.24
Australian Dollar	55.39	Saudi Riyal	21.5
Canadian Dollar	58.72	Swedish Krona	9.61
Swiss Franc	83.75	Singapore Dollar	56.72

DELHI WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Vivo launches new device

Hyderabad: Smartphone brand vivo on Tuesday kicked off its festive celebrations by launching vivo V20 as the latest addition to its camera focused V-series portfolio. The new smartphone, among the slimmest with 7.38 mm thickness, features 44MP Eye-Auto focus. It will be available in three unique color options and priced from Rs 24,990. The device will go on sale starting October 20, 2020, on vivo India e-store and Flipkart along with all mainline partner retail stores across India. Nipun Marya, Director-Brand Strategy, vivo India, said: "The new device is yet another effort from vivo to provide a strong, well-rounded smartphone that not only provides exceptional front-camera performance but becomes a benchmark in smartphone design. The 44MP Eye Autofocus feature promises to bring clear front camera pictures and videos to the users".

Corteva's initiatives

Hyderabad: Corteva Agriscience, the global agriculture company, said that it undertook several initiatives to enable corn crop mechanization and empower farmers which, in the first year of implementation, helped to improve yield with less water usage, reduced cost of cultivation and increased farmer incomes. In the past one year, Corteva distributed corn seed planters to select farmers at subsidized prices in Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Dr Aruna Rachakonda, Marketing Director, Corteva Agriscience, South Asia, said, "To unlock the full potential of Indian agriculture, farmers need to be fast-tracked towards adopting technology and sustainable practices. Recognizing this, we have been working to empower smallholder farmers across five large Indian regions by enabling them to mechanize their corn crop production".

Piaggio launches festive offers

Hyderabad: Piaggio India announced special season benefits and offers on its Vespa and Aprilia range of two wheelers. The new offers for the festive season will be available from now till November 16, 2020, during which customers can avail benefits up to Rs 10,000 on purchase of any Vespa and Aprilia variants. The offers include insurance benefit of up to Rs 7,000 and complementary accessories worth up to Rs 4,000. Further, customers can also avail first year of free service and 5 years of warranty. Diego Graffi, Chairman and MD, Piaggio India said, "Our offers are targeted across platform to provide hassle-free buying and ownership experience, we are sure that this festive special offer and experience of owning Vespa and Aprilia will award the unforgettable unique experience to our prospective customers."

DigitSecure gets certification

Hyderabad: City-based DigitSecure which into contactless payment solution on Tuesday said that its services have been certified by UL, a global safety science company, to Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council for Contactless Payments on COTS (PoC) Security and Test Requirement. The PCI certification is the first one in the APAC for contactless card payment solutions on mobile devices. Jay Krishna, founder and CTO, DigitSecure, said, "Our mission is to empower millions of merchants globally to accept card payments and grow their business with simple and affordable mobile app-based solutions. Currently, DigitSecure supports Visa and Mastercard solutions but it can be expanded to support other international and domestic schemes."

GDP will shrink 10.3% in 2020: IMF

Says India's economy will bounce back with 8.8% growth in 2021

Washington: The Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the report said that revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter.

"As a result, the economy is projected to contract by 10.3 per cent in 2020, before rebounding by 8.8 per cent in 2021," it said. In 2019, India's growth rate was 4.2 per cent.

According to the IMF, India is among those likely to suffer the greatest damage from global warming, reflecting its initially high temperatures. For India, the net gains from climate change mitigation—relative to inaction—would be up to 60-80 per cent of GDP by 2100.

While estimates of losses



Revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where GDP contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter – IMF's World Economic Outlook report

from climate change are somewhat smaller for colder regions (for example, Europe, North America, and east Asia), these are likely underestimations as they do not include a number of damages (for example, rise in sea levels, natural disasters, damage to infrastructure from thawing of permafrost in Russia) and negative global spillovers from large economic disruptions in other parts of the world.

Last week, the World bank said India's GDP this fiscal is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent. "India's GDP is expected to contract 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March," the World

Bank said in its latest issue of the South Asia Economic Focus report. "The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told reporters during a conference call last week. "It is an exceptional situation in India. A very dire outlook," he said. There was a 25 per cent decline in GDP in the second quarter of the year, which is the first quarter of the current fiscal year in India. In the report, the World bank said the spread of the virus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India.

WORLD ECONOMY IN DEEP RECESSION

Washington: The IMF on Tuesday predicted a deep global recession this year and the world growth to be - 4.4 per cent, asserting that the global economic crisis is far from over mainly due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

In its latest World Economic Outlook report, the International Monetary Fund also said the swift recovery in China has surprised on the upside while the global economy's long ascent back to pre-pandemic levels of activity remains prone to setbacks. "This crisis is however far from over. In our latest World Economic Outlook, we continue to project a deep recession in 2020. Global growth is projected to be -4.4 per cent, an upward revision of 0.8 percentage points compared to our June update,"

Gita Gopinath, the Chief Economist of the IMF, said. This upgrade owes to somewhat less dire outcomes in the second quarter, as well as signs of a stronger recovery in the third quarter, offset partly by downgrades in some emerging and developing economies.

According to the report, in 2021, growth is projected to rebound to 5.2 per cent, -0.2 percentage points below its June projection. Noting that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to spread with over one million lives tragically lost so far, the Indian-American

Global economy likely to contract by -4.4%, says IMF

economist said living with the novel coronavirus has been a challenge like no other. However, she said the world is adapting as a result of eased lockdowns and the rapid deployment of policy support at an unprecedented scale by central banks and governments around the world.

"The global economy is coming back from the depths of its collapse in the first half of this year," she said. "Employment has partially rebounded after having plummeted during the peak of the crisis. This crisis is however far

from over. Employment remains well below pre-pandemic levels and the labour market has become more polarised with low-income workers, youth, and women being harder hit," she added.

She further said the poor are getting poorer with close to 90 million people expected to fall into extreme deprivation this year. "The ascent out of this calamity is likely to be long, uneven, and highly uncertain. It is essential that fiscal and monetary policy support are not prematurely withdrawn, as best possible," Gopinath said.



Gita Gopinath

Cabinet to soon consider new public sector enterprises policy

Under this, Centre will privatise PSUs operating in non-strategic sectors

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet will soon consider new public sector enterprises policy that will define strategic sectors, which will not have more than four PSUs, Finance Ministry officials sources said on Tuesday.

As part of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' package, the government in May had announced that there will be a maximum of four public sector companies in the strategic sectors, and state-owned firms in other segments will eventually be privatised. Under the policy, a list of strategic sectors will be notified where there will be at least one and a maximum of four public sector enterprise, apart from private sector companies.

In other sectors, central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) will be privatised, depending on the feasibility. According to the sources, it is before the Cabinet



and it will be taken up soon.

"PSEs will continue to play an important role in defined areas. We need a coherent policy because sometimes you open up some sectors in piecemeal... Now we shall define the areas... where their presence will be impactfully felt," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said while announcing the package in May.

On the privatisation of banks, the sources said the government is going as per the plan as far as the strategic sale of government stake in IDBI Bank is

concerned. The government currently owns a 46.5 per cent stake in IDBI Bank. In January 2019, LIC completed the acquisition of 51 per cent controlling stake in the lender. The state-owned life insurer infused Rs 21,624 crore into the bank.

Sitharaman in the budget had proposed plans for the sale of the government's remaining stake in IDBI Bank. Besides, the sources said, the government is on course as far as initial public offering of insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is concerned. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is looking at the timing of the LIC listing. The government aims to garner Rs 90,000 crore from the listing of LIC and stake dilution in IDBI Bank, out of total the disinvestment target of Rs 2.10 lakh crore during the current fiscal.



Bank of Baroda felicitates organic farmer

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Bank of Baroda felicitated Padma Shri Awardee Chintala Venkat Reddy, an innovative farmer, at his residence in the city on the occasion of Baroda Kisan Pakhwada-2020 which was fortnight campaign launched October 1, 2020. The campaign will be end on October 15, 2020. Venkat Reddy is an innovative organic farmer known for his soil and nutrient management techniques in farming. He holds the distinction of being the first independent farmer in India to receive an international patent for his technique in soil swapping and soil fertility.

K Vijaya Raju, bank's Regional Manager of Telanagana South Region welcomed the innovative farmer along with his son Dr Chintala Narsimha Reddy and informed them that during this fortnight campaign, Bank of Baroda is organizing cattle camps, choupals and soil testing in farms.

Markets close higher as Reliance, IT stocks shine

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended marginally higher after choppy trade on Tuesday, propped up by RIL and IT stocks amid lacklustre cues from the global markets.

Rising for the ninth session in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 31.71 points or 0.08 per cent higher at 40,625.51. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty inched up 3.55 points or 0.03 per cent to 11,934.50. HCL Tech was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 3.94 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Infosys, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement and Tech Mahindra.

On the other hand, Titan, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI and Maruti were among the main laggards, shedding up to 2.18 per cent. According to analysts, the recent recovery in market was led by expectations of fresh fiscal stimulus from the government, but the sops announced have failed to cheer investor sentiment. IT stocks continued to gain momentum ahead of crucial Q2 results and better earnings visi-



bility, they added. "Market may consolidate due to below than anticipated stimulus package and the large part of the positive Q2 results announced till date is well factored in the prices. The momentum may reverse into a narrow-range, in the near-term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, IT, tech, power, metal and basic materials indices rose as much as 1.54 per cent, while healthcare, consumer durables, finance and bank ended in the red. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices slipped up to 0.29 per cent.

NephroPlus buys majority stake in Philippine's firm

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: NephroPlus, a city-based dialysis network, on Tuesday said it acquired majority stake in Royal Care Dialysis Centers Inc (RCDC), a reputed dialysis network in the Philippines with deep focus in delivering high quality care. Announcing the acquisition, Vikram Vuppala, Founder and CEO, NephroPlus said with the acquisition the company aims to become the largest dialysis network in Philippines in next five years. "We have already started talking to several dialysis centres in Philippines to fuel our

expansion plans. With this entry into Philippines, we reiterate our commitment to build a dominant multinational network across Asia, Middle East and CIS geographies," Vikram said.

RCDC Network currently treats nearly 400 dialysis patients across its 6 dialysis clinics located in Metro Manila and other nearby provinces.

Through this deal, NephroPlus will be responsible for the network's existing operations and will lend all its India based protocols, technologies and operational expertise to RCDC with an aim to improve dialysis care in the Philippines.



Wipro announces ₹9,500-cr buyback plan

To buy back up to 23.75 cr equity shares at ₹400 per share

New Delhi: IT services major Wipro on Tuesday announced an up to Rs 9,500 crore buyback plan at Rs 400 per equity share.

The announcement comes a week after its rival Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced a mega Rs 16,000-crore buyback plan at Rs 3,000 per equity share. In a regulatory filing, Wipro said its board of directors has approved a buyback proposal for purchase of up to 23.75 crore equity shares at Rs 400 per share and aggregates to an amount of up to Rs 9,500 crore. This is 4.16 per cent of the paid-up equity share capital of the company as on September 30, 2020, it added. At Rs 400 apiece, the buyback is 6.4 per cent higher than Tuesday's closing price of Rs 375.5 on the BSE.

In a statement, Wipro Chief Financial Officer Jatin Dalal said the



company's free cash flows as a percentage of net income for the first half was at 160.7 per cent of net income. "The announcement to buyback equity shares is part of our philosophy to deliver consistent returns to shareholders," he added.

Last year, Wipro had undertaken a buyback programme of 32.31 crore shares at Rs 325 apiece, aggregating to about Rs 10,500 crore. Wipro previously announced a buyback worth Rs 11,000 crore in 2017, and Rs 2,500 crore in the year 2016. It said

members of the promoter and promoter group of the company indicated their intention to participate in the proposed buyback.

Promoter and promoter group held 74.02 per cent shareholding as on October 9, 2020. The proposed buyback is subject to approval of shareholders by way of a special resolution through a postal ballot, it added. The process, timelines and other requisite details with regard to the postal ballot will be communicated in due course, it said.

"The company has formed a committee to oversee and implement the buyback and to do all such acts, deeds, matters and things as it may, in its absolute discretion, deem necessary, expedient, usual or proper in connection with the proposed buyback," it said.

Q2 net dips 3.4% to ₹2,465 cr

New Delhi: IT services major Wipro on Tuesday posted 3.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,465.7 crore for the quarter ended September 30. The Bengaluru-based company registered a net profit (attributable to equity holders of the company) at Rs 2,552.7 crore in the year-ago period. Wipro's revenue for the September quarter was nearly flat at Rs 15,114.5 crore. The IT major expects its revenue from IT services business to be in the range of \$2,022-2,062 million for the December quarter, translating to a sequential growth of 1.5-3.5 per cent. Its IT services segment revenue in the September quarter was at \$1,992.4 million - an increase of 3.7 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

Uttam demands compensation for rain-hit farmers across State

TPCC chief says that even after staying in power for almost seven years at a stretch, TRS is still too weak to fight elections on its own

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President & MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy asked Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to fight and win just one election in a fair manner without using money power or misusing official machinery.

Addressing a press conference through Zoom video-conference on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that even after staying in power for almost seven years at a stretch, TRS is still too weak to fight elections on its own.

Uttam said standing crops spread across lakhs of acres across Telangana State suffered heavy damage due to recent rains and floods. He said paddy, maize and cotton crops were badly hit due to the heavy rains. He criticised the KCR govt for not enumerating the losses so far. He said Telangana farmers, in the last seven years, never got compensation for the crop loss due to natural calamities. He demanded that the State govern-



TPCC president and Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy with Manickam Tagore, MP & AICC incharge Telangana and senior leaders at a programme organised to felicitate 68 Congress leaders who got arrested & were booked in cases for fighting for justice of rape & murder of Muslim girl in Moinabad & Dalit girl in Khammam, in Hyderabad on Tuesday

ment pay compensation to the farmers who lost their crops due to rains. He said that the farmers must be paid compensation as per G.O. No. 1 of the Central Govt. He said that the government should pay compensation of Rs. 20,000 per acre for paddy and Rs. 30,000 per acre for cotton crops.

Further, Reddy said that the

farmers have cultivated fine rice at the advice of the State government by making huge investments. However, the farmers were being offered MSP of Rs. 1,888 per quintal. Stating that this MSP would not even cover the investment, he demanded that the State government add a bonus of Rs. 600 per quintal for fine rice.

AICC Incharge & MP Manickam Tagore, TPCC President Uttam Kumar Reddy and others lauded 68 leaders who were arrested for holding dharna at Home Minister's residence in Ministers' Quarters in protest against the rise in atrocities against women, especially the Moinabad and Khammam incident.

Jagga Reddy lashes out at TRS govt

Mocks that State Ministers and the ruling party MLAs have become a rubber stamp in the State

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Congress Party MLA from Sangareddy Jagga Reddy on Tuesday lashed out at ruling TRS party for holding the special session of the house in a haphazard manner. He alleged that the session was being conducted without following any established procedure.

He mocked that the session was being conducted by the Chief Minister KCR after dreaming about its organisation during the night before. He wondered how the session was being conducted without any agenda and added that the session had resembled the school classes. Commenting on the plight of the farmers of the State, he alleged that the State government had literally detained the farmers in the name of regulatory farming and added that the farmers had sus-

tained huge losses due to the recent untimely rains. Referring to comments of the ruling party leaders that they have spent Rs72, 000 crore for the development of State capital Hyderabad, he wondered if the people of the state would believe the claims of the rulers.

Commenting on the amendments being made to the GHMC Act, he wanted to know as to what kind of the urgency the State government had to amend the Act. He mocked that State ministers and the ruling party MLAs had become a rubber stamp in the State. Commenting on the ongoing enumeration of the properties, he said that the people of the State were not prepare to take part in their survey. He said that the CM would not come to the people of the State unless his party was defeated in the upcoming Dubbaka assembly elections.



TRS MLA Sanjay Kumar tests positive for Covid

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: TRS MLA Sanjay Kumar was tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. The legislator from Jagityal has attended the special one day session of the assembly and took the test here.

On conducting the tests the doctors confirmed the legislator as positive. He is now in home quarantine in Hyderabad. The MLA in a statement asked the officials and leaders and activists who were in touch with him to get tested. He also advised them to get home quarantine if tested positive.

RANGA REDDY DIST NEWS IN BRIEFS

MLA inspects waterlogged colonies



Ranga Reddy: LB Nagar MLA Devireddy Sudheer Reddy inspected waterlogged colonies in Champapet, BN Reddy Nagar divisions on Tuesday. The MLA inspected Uday Nagar, MRR, Padmanagar Colonies in Champapet division and Hariharapuram, PVR Colony, Snehamaya and Gandhi Nagar Colonies in BN Reddy Nagar division. Due to heavy downpour for the past two days, the water entered the colonies. People in the colonies are facing problems due to waterlogged. So, the MLA instructed the officials to take measures so that the residents of these colonies do not face any problems. Champapet Corporator Ramana Reddy, BN Reddy Corporator Laxmi Prasanna were also present.

Heavy rain leads to water flowing

Ranga Reddy: The city have been hit by another spell of copious rains, which disrupted normal flow of life, and brought traffic to a standstill. Water was found flooding different parts of the city, low-lying areas and stagnated on the roads. The rains have left water puddles all over. At the ends and sides of roads, below and at the mouths of flyovers, standing water reduced the city to a partially flooded in despair. Water from the PV Narasimha Rao Express Highway has flowed down and brought traffic to a standstill. Commuters are facing problems as the water is flowing down the Highway, forming a waterfall at several places.

30 tolas gold, ₹1 lakh cash stolen



Ranga Reddy: Thieves broke into the locked house of one Srinivas Reddy and decamped with 20 tolas of gold and one lakh cash in Mumin Kalan village in Vikarabad. Police said, Srinivas Reddy along with his family went to one of his relatives' place on Sunday and his son locked the house and went to Hyderabad. Reddy and his family returned to home on Monday morning and found that the door was broken and valuables stolen. The Vikarabad DSP Sanjeeva Rao reached the spot and started investigation.

ZP Chairperson visits Gandipet Lake

Ranga Reddy: District ZP Chairperson Anitha Reddy visited Gandipet Lake and expressed happiness on Tuesday. On this occasion Reddy said that it is a pleasure to see reservoirs fill up after a decade and all the ponds of Mission Kakatiya in the State are overflowing due to heavy downpour for the past couple of days. She also said that authorities are ready to open the gates of Himayat Sagar at any moment, another 7 feet of water is yet to come into Gandipet Lake and alerted people in Musi River catchment area to move to safer places.



Beyond the call of duty

Ranga Reddy: Rachakonda traffic police playing the role of good samaritans, two traffic police personnel jumped into stagnant water and instead of waiting for Corporation staff, bailed out the rainwater themselves, to free the road for vehicles during peak hours. Rachakonda Police urge citizens to Dial100 or WhatsApp @9490617111 in any emergency.

SONG ON PLASMA DONATION RELEASED



Rajya Sabha MP Joginipalli Santosh Kumar and Cyberabad Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar at a Plasma donation song releasing function at Cyberabad Commissionerate in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Music Director Mani Sharma composed the song

Vendors sell stamp papers at higher price

Ranga Reddy: The Stamps and Registration department stopped issuing stamp papers as the government stopped the registrations. Taking advantage of the situation the stamp vendors are selling the stamp paper at higher prices in the market. The Telangana government has stopped the registrations of lands, plots and layouts and this is affecting other processes also.

This has become a hindrance to people of other categories who are not involved in land dealings. The government has stopped issuing the stamp papers of Rs 10, 20, 50, 100 denominations. The online portals

also stopped working since the government has stopped the registration process.

These stamps are not available anywhere due to the present situation. The common people are facing problems. These stamps are not only required for registration of lands but also required for making birth/death certificates, affidavits certificates, private agreements and many others. A stamp paper worth Rs 100 is being sold at Rs 200. People do not have any alternative to get the stamp papers, so they are buying the stamp papers even at the higher price from the stamp vendors.

EC urged to depute adequate staff for enrolment of graduate voters

Hyderabad: TRS party on Tuesday urged the Election Commission to depute sufficient staff for enrolment of graduate voters and increase the enrolment centres for the ensuing Council elections through Graduates' quota. The TRS leaders led by general secretary M Sreenivas Reddy met the Chief Electoral Officer Shashank Goel on Tuesday and urged him to depute staff for enrolment of graduate voters in the State, issue appropriate directions to all concerned to establish special centres with adequate equipment namely 18 and 19 copies, proper training may be lent them in filling up for enrolment of voters particularly in all areas, setting up special enrolment centers ten times more than the existing number in all corporation and municipal areas with adequate equipment and also by giving wide publicity in all local newspapers and online platforms, also take steps to increase the number of staff for verification process of the voters enrolled online within the notified time.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Veteran CPI leader and four-time MLA Gunda Mallesh, 73, passed away at NIMS, in Hyderabad on Tuesday afternoon. He was admitted to NIMS on October 2 and was shifted to Intensive Care Unit immediately as his health condition deteriorated following coronavirus infection a few days ago.

He developed kidney and heart related problems for the last few days and his condition deteriorated further and breathed his last due to CAD (Coronary Artery Disease).

The mortal remains of the senior party leader were shifted to the party head office, Makdood Bhavan at Himayat Nagar in Hyderabad so that party workers can pay their final respects and then shifted

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The 'Chalo Assembly' programme organised by the BJP, the CPI and other outfits on Tuesday turned violent in the city. Hundreds of activists of various political parties reached the Assembly opposing the decision of the State government to

to his native place in Bellampalli in Mancherial district.

Mallesh was born in Rechini village of Tandur mandal in erstwhile Adilabad district. He won as the legislator in 1983, 1985 and 1994 from Asifabad constituency. In 2009, he was elected as the MLA of Bellampalli, and served as the floor leader of the CPI.

Those who condoled the death include Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Telangana Cabinet Ministers T Harish Rao, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Indrakaran Reddy, Speaker P Srinivass Reddy, Chairman G Sukhender Reddy, TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Congress leaders Bhatti Vikramarka, V

Hanumantha Rao, BJP national vice president D K Aruna, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, BJP State president Bandi Sanjay, and MIM leaders Asaduddin Owaisi, Akbaruddin Owaisi, TDP leaders R Chandrasekhar Reddy, L Ramana and others.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao expressed condolences over Mallesh's death. Recalling his association with the communist veteran, the Chief Minister conveyed his condolences to bereaved members of Mallesh's family.

Many Communist leaders including K Narayana, Ch Venkat Reddy, Aziz Pasha, Raghavulu, Tammineni Veerabhadram, and others recalled their association with Mallesh.

Cops thwart BJP's 'Chalo Assembly' bid; arrest agitators

amend the GHMC Act.

The BJP leaders made it very clear that they were opposing the proposed decision of the State government to amend the Act and allow those who have more than two children to contest in the GHMC elections. They also demanded that the State government not hold the elections without com-

pleting the reservation process.

The police stopped the activists when they tried to barge into the State Assembly. They also arrested them and took them to different police stations in the city. Massive police security arrangements were made to avoid any untoward incident on the Assembly premises.

5 held from Jharkhand for Paytm fraud

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The cybercrime wing of Cyberabad police on Tuesday brought five persons from Jharkhand on prisoner transit warrant for committing cybercrimes. The accused were identified as Nanku Mandal (27) and Rajesh Mandal (26) from Jamtara district, Shiva Shakti Kumar (25) and Dilkush Kumar Singh (18) of Deogarh district, and Gaurav Arun of Ranchi, and recovered an amount of Rs 4.30 lakh from their possession.

According to police, the accused were cheating people on the pretext of updating Know Your Customer details of their Paytm accounts. Nanku, the mastermind of the racket, along with Rajesh, contacted gullible persons and asked them to download remote access



applications like Teamviewer and Quick Support to update their KYC details on the Paytm app.

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar said that the main accused Nanku used to obtain the mobile numbers through a local source, who was also involved in criminal activities. After obtaining the contact numbers, he would dial any number and if he got a confidence that he could trap the person, then he would trap him by talking smoothly.

"Later on, he would ask the victims to add a nominal amount to their Paytm accounts using their credit and debit cards. During such transactions by victims, using remote access, the accused would note down their Paytm login credentials and as he was expert in smooth talking, he would then ask them to share their One Time Passwords (OTPs) with him," he added. "The accused gang then transferred funds from the victims' accounts into their e-wallets. Shiva

Shakti Kumar and Gaurav Arun provided them electricity bills on a commission basis. Nanku and Rajesh cleared the electricity bills from the money they had stolen and took cash from Shiva Shakti Kumar.

The issue came to light when a woman was cheated in a similar fashion and she filed a police complaint with us, based on the complaint the accused gang was arrested and remanded to judicial custody," explained the officer.

Mumbai woman allegedly raped in city hotel

Hyderabad: A 23-year-old woman from Mumbai, who was in the city in the month of June to attend her friend's birthday, was allegedly raped by a person who met her at the birthday party. According to Banjara Hills police, they received a transferred case from Mumbai police wherein it was mentioned that the victim woman was raped in a hotel in Hyderabad by one Zubair Khan and the woman has filed a complaint two days ago in Mumbai.

N Kalinga Rao, Inspector of Banjara Hills police station said, "The victim woman in her complaint alleged that the accused person raped her and also recorded her video and threatened to not to reveal it to anyone or else he would post the video online. She also alleged that she was raped by the accused person's friend. Based on the complaint we received from Mumbai police, we have registered a case against the said person and the matter is being investigated."

AP State logs 4,622 new Covid cases

Amaravati: State on Tuesday recorded 5,715 recoveries and 4,622 new Covid-19 cases, while 35 more people succumbed to the infection in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday. With this, the state Covid-19 table showed a gross 7,63,573 confirmed cases, 7,14,427 recoveries and 6,291 deaths so far, leaving 42,855 active cases, according to the latest bulletin.

West Godavari added 752, Chittoor 705 and East Godavari 691 new cases in 24 hours. Kurnool, which was once the state topper in coronavirus cases, now has the lowest number of only 1,253 active cases. It added the lowest number of 88 new cases in 24 hours.

Chittoor reported seven new Covid-19 casualties, Krishna five and Kadapa and Prakasam four each. After 67.02 lakh sample tests till date, the overall infection positivity rate slid to 11.39 per cent, the bulletin said.



Morris adds potency to RCB's bowling arsenal

New Delhi (IANS): Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) had been struggling to find a front-line pace bowler to support their spinners YuzvendraChahal and Washington Sundar in the early part of the IPL 2020. The team had also been struggling to stem the flow of runs at the death.

In their first five games, they had conceded 200 runs or thereabouts on three occasions. After the match against Delhi Capitals on October 5 in Sharjah, skipper ViratKohli had said that they'd need the services of South African pace-bowling all-rounder Chris Morris and things will change when he'd join for the next match after

recovering from injury.

Enter Morris and RCB's fortunes change.

Thanks to his bowling, they have been able to restrict their next opponents -- Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders -- to register convincing wins and enter the top three in the points table. They are separated from second-placed Delhi Capitals only by net run rate.

Morris took 3/19 in four overs against CSK while he returned with figures of 2/17 against KKR on Monday night. His confidence has rubbed on to young pacer NavdeepSaini who has also done well to contain the batsmen.

Morris's wickets against CSK included those of RavindraJadeja and Dwayne Bravo whereas against KKR, his victims included the tail. In both the games, he was able to bring down the scoring rate by not allowing the batters to score freely.

The right-arm pacer has been used intelligently by his skipper in both the games - Kohli has split his overs in three phases. Morris bowled the first over in both the games. Then he was brought in for an over of two in the middle and then an over or two towards the end.

Against KKR, he bowled the 1st, 13th, 15th and the 19th whereas against CSK, he had bowled 1st, 10th, 17th and 19th overs.

"I was very nervous, it has been a while since I last played a game, so I was very nervous, I had butterflies in my stomach, it was like I was making my Test debut again. Happy to get on the park, it is a good feeling," said Morris in a press conference after the games against CSK.

TODAY'S MATCH

Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals at 7.30pm



AGARKAR PICKS MI, DC & KKR TO QUALIFY FOR IPL PLAYOFFS

Dubai (IANS): Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders are three out of the four teams which will qualify for the playoffs in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) edition, feels former Indian pacer AjitAgarkar.

While Mumbai and Delhi currently occupy the top two spots in the points table, KKR are placed at the fourth position.

"It's such a close tournament, so many ups and downs, but clearly Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals look like the two best teams -- form wise and personnel wise. KKR, in my opinion, got a real bonus win against CSK. They are my third team," said Agarkar while speaking on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

According to Agarkar, the fourth team to enter the final four will be either Rajasthan Royals or SunRisers Hyderabad.

"The fourth team for me is between Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad. I had CSK at the start of the tournament, but at the moment, these two teams look slightly better than what CSK is playing," he added.

The MS Dhoni-led side has not been able to perform as per expectations and are currently occupying the seventh spot in the table, with just two wins from seven games.

Meanwhile, former England spinner Graeme Swann feels SunRisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals will make it to the top four at the end of the league stage.

Shastri urges de Villiers to come out of retirement

Sharjah (IANS): India head coach Ravi Shastri has urged former South Africa captain AB de Villiers to come out of retirement and again play international cricket.

On Monday evening, de Villiers played a scintillating knock of 73 runs for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 match against Kolkata Knight Riders. His 33-ball inning was studded with five 4s and six 6s and it helped RCB post 194/2 which they defended quite comfortably in the end at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. "Now, that the penny has dropped. What one saw last night was unreal. And the feeling is the same waking up. AB de Villiers, the game in these trying times or otherwise needs you back in the international arena and out of retirement. The game will be better off," Shastri tweeted on Tuesday.

The former Proteas skipper played 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20Is for the national side before his retirement in 2018.

AB de Villiers has been in great form in the ongoing IPL, having so far scored 228 runs in seven matches for the RCB. Courtesy their 82-run win over KKR, RCB are currently placed at the third spot in the points table and will next face Kings XI Punjab on Thursday.



Chahal should've been MoM against KKR: Stokes

Sharjah (IANS): Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Ben Stokes feels Royal Challengers Bangalore's YuzvendraChahal bowled exceptionally well against Kolkata Knight Riders and that's why the leg-spinner should have been adjudged Man of the Match in the 28th Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 match.

On Monday evening, Chahal returned with brilliant figures of

1/12 from his four overs and played a crucial role in RCB's emphatic 82-run win over KKR at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

"In a batters game YuzvendraChahal should get MOM here, incredible figures especially as it's in Sharjah," tweeted Stokes after the match.

Swashbuckling batsman AB de Villiers was, instead, declared the Player of the Match for his un-

beaten 73-run knock. His 33-ball inning was studded with five 4s and six 6s and helped RCB post 194/2 which they defended quite comfortably in the end.

Chahal has been in good form in the ongoing tournament, picking up 10 wickets in seven matches at an average of just over 19. They next face Kings XI Punjab on Thursday at the same venue.

Lakshya Sen enters pre-quarters of Denmark Open

Denmark (IANS): Indian shuttlerLakshya Sen on Tuesday made a winning return to the badminton circuit as he defeated France's Christo Popov in straight games to enter the second round of Denmark Open.

Sen, who held a 3-1 head to head record against Popov, defeated the Frenchman 21-9, 21-15 in just 36 minutes to make it to the next round of the Super 750 event. He is most likely to face Vittinghus of Denmark in the pre-quarters.

Meanwhile, Olympic hopeful KidambiSrikanth, who had claimed the Denmark title three years

back, will begin his tournament campaign on Wednesday against world number 52 Toby Pent of England.

Ajay Jayaram will take on local favourite and world no 3 Anders Antonsen in the opening round and SubhankarDey will compete against Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue in their respective first round encounters on Wednesday.

The Denmark Open has marked the resumption of the BWF calendar which has been on a halt since March following the outbreak of novel coronavirus.

The Badminton World Federation

(BWF) had earlier intended the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup team events to mark the restart of the badminton calendar, but the tournaments were cancelled after several countries pulled out due to safety concerns arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic. The BWF also cancelled the Denmark Masters, which was set to start two days after the end of the Denmark Open.



Tokyo to host international gymnastics event on Nov 8

Tokyo (IANS): The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) has announced Tokyo will host an international gymnastics tournament on November 8. "As part of the return to international competition, the FIG will hold a unique Artistic Gymnastics event to bring together some of the world's best athletes in Tokyo on 8 November," stated FIG in a media release. The competition, hosted by the Japanese Gymnastics Association (JGA), will see two teams compete - Team Friendship and Team Solidarity and will feature 32 athletes from Japan, China, Russia and the US.

Dhoni chosen 'T20 ka king' in a viewer-based survey

New Delhi (IANS): Former India skipper MS Dhoni has been declared as 'T20 ka king' in a recent online survey conducted by Sports Flashes, country's first online sports radio channel.

Twelve lakh people participated in the survey on the various social media platforms of Sports Flashes, as per an official release of the channel.

A total of 128 cricketers were selected from all over the world from different teams and started an interesting and enthralling battle of 127 matches, comprising different stages.

The cricketers were selected based on their past performances and the current Indian Premier League (IPL) values by an expert panel and commentators of Sports Flashes. The voting for all these 127 matches was contested on social media handles of Sports Flashes.

The survey was undertaken in stages similar to the cricket leagues which were live for the

last 32 days. In semifinals, Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh were up against each other in the first semi-final, while the current Indian captain ViratKohli was locking horns with his deputy Rohit Sharma. Final was between Dhoni and ViratKohli. The audience selected MS Dhoni as the winner of the 'T20 ka King' title.

On the survey, Raman Raheja, founder, Sports Flashes said, "This result shows that even after announcing his retirement from international cricket, fans still considers MS Dhoni as the king of cricket and value all that he has done for his country in the past; he is a true legend of the game."

"The survey was undertaken to understand the engagement level of cricket lovers with their icons. 40 lakh views were achieved in 32 days. This shows cricket cannot be displaced from its position as the favourite sport in India," he added.



AIFC kicks off the 'Heartful Coach' event

Hyderabad: Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC) and Heartfulness Education Trust have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and with that kicked-off the program, 'The Heartful Coach -- Let's Coach with our Heart.' This Coaches Welfare Program is intended to help Grassroots Coaches, Elite Coaches, PE teachers and all Indian football stakeholders.

Football coaches across age groups are responsible not just for inspiring their teams to achieve desired results or winning tournaments but also enabling their holistic development (mental, physical, psychological and personality). The 'Heartful Coach' Program enables football coaches to connect with the infinite potential of their 'heart' through an experientially designed program.

Referees keep moving forward as 'new normal' sets in for Indian football

Kolkata (IANS): The 'new normal' of football has set in with the I-League Qualifiers. Following the strict Covid-19 safety guidelines, those operating in and around the tournament have already conducted four successful matches, two each in Kolkata and Kalyani respectively.

While all the five teams - Garhwal FC, ARA FC, Bhawanipore FC, Mohammedan SC and FC Bengaluru United - have made their own adjustments to adapt to the new rules and regulations for their own safety, there is yet another team that is quietly working away behind the scenes, making sure all the matches are run smoothly - the referees.

"This is a unique experience for us all. But we have to adjust because football action has finally come back to India. We are



proud to be a part of the tournament that has brought football back, in fact, bring sports back in India. It is up to us to manage. All are ready to accept the Covid safety regulations and move forward together," referee Santhosh Kumar, who has been officiating in the tournament, was quoted as saying in an AIFC

media release.

There has been a significant change to how the referees need to approach a game of football with regards to the build-up to a particular game, in order to comply with the Covid-safety guidelines that have been put in place for the tournament.

While each team can make

five substitutions in a game, there is a very specific pattern in which these substitutions can be made, explained referee Rak-timSaha.

"There are only three opportunities to make five substitutions now. Yes, you have five substitutions in hand, but in order to not prolong the added time much longer, teams must make these substitutions in three windows," he stated.

Saha believes that despite the setbacks during the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian football has now fought its way back.

"Indian football is growing. We were closed for 8 months but we still kept attending the courses and kept our fitness intact. Now that Indian football is back, and we are all moving forward together despite the pandemic, so it feels really good," he maintained.