



THE HANS INDIA

● Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 ●

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WINDOWS



A cotton candy seller looks for customers in the backdrop of dark clouds looming in the sky, at Marina beach in Chennai on Sunday

Woman alleges gangrape in Delhi 5-star hotel

New Delhi: A woman, working as a tourist guide-cum-ticket booking agent, alleged that she was gang-raped in a five-star hotel in Delhi's Connaught Place after being enticed there on the pretext of providing her a loan at subsidised rates. According to the victim, the incident happened on Friday night. In her complaint, the woman told the Delhi Police that she was in dire need of money and the accused offered her loan at attractive rates. Lured to their hotel room for the money, she was instead assaulted and raped.

MoU signed for integration of AYUSH systems

New Delhi: The Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry on Sunday signed an agreement with the AYUSH Ministry to work together to control the menace of malnutrition through integration of AYUSH systems with ongoing nutrition interventions. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik at a video conference, according to a statement. The AYUSH Ministry will provide support to beneficiaries of the umbrella integrated Child Development Services programme of the women and child development ministry, it said.

BSF foils bid to smuggle weapons, drugs from Pak

Jammu: The Border Security Force (BSF) has foiled an attempt to smuggle weapons and narcotics from Pakistan on the International Border (IB) in Jammu's Arnia, officials said on Sunday. The attempt was made on Saturday night. The (BSF) observed suspicious movement near the IB in the night and thwarted the attempt to smuggle arms, ammunition and narcotics into the Indian territory.



LADAKH STAND-OFF

Army occupies 6 new major heights

New Delhi: In the last three weeks, the Indian Army has occupied six new major hill features on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) during the ongoing conflict with the Chinese Army in the Eastern Ladakh sector.

"The Indian Army has occupied six new heights between August 29 and the second week of September. The new hill features being occupied by our troops include the Magar Hill, Gurung Hill, Recehen La, Rezang La, Mokhpuri and



the dominating height over Chinese positions near Finger 4," according to government sources.

These hill features were lying dormant and the Indian Army had occupied them before the Chinese

Army which was eyeing to sit on the dominating heights and now our troops have an edge over the adversary in those areas, they said. Sources said the foiling of Chinese Army's attempts in occupying the heights led to the firing of bullets in the air on at least three occasions from the northern bank of Pangong to the southern bank of the lake.

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- Magar Hill
- Gurung Hill
- Recehen La
- Rezang La
- Mokhpuri
- Finger 4

RS PASSES FARM BILLS

Unprecedented drama in Rajya Sabha ■ Mic broken, papers thrown

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Sunday passed two contentious farm Bills — The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020—amid a major ruckus by Opposition parties.

The Bills, which seek to replace the two ordinances promulgated on June 5 this year and which were already cleared by the Lok Sabha, were passed by voice vote in the Upper House.

The House witnessed tumultuous scenes during the passage of the Bills as members from the Opposition parties snatched and threw papers from the table and even broke the chairman's mic.

The Opposition claimed the NDA government did not have the numbers and there was rampant violation of rules that helped the BJP. "This does not end here," said Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien, terming it a "murder of democracy". The Opposition MPs sat in protest inside the House for a while, and later, 47 of them moved a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh Singh. "They cheated. They broke every rule in Parliament. It was a historic day. In the worst sense of the word."

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TMC MP Derek O'Brien attempts to tear the rule book as ruckus erupts in the Rajya Sabha over agriculture related bills, during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Sunday

No-trust motion against RS Dy Chairman

New Delhi: Opposition parties on Sunday moved a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh after he overruled Opposition pleas for postponing Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's reply to the debate on the two farm Bills till Monday since the sitting time scheduled of the House was over. The motion, signed by around 100 members, has been submitted in the notice office of Parliament as the secretary-general was not present. "This day will go down in history as 'black day'. The way these Bills have been passed goes against democratic processes and amounts to killing democracy."

Centre making mockery of democracy: TRS

New Delhi: TRS MP K Keshava Rao lashed out at the BJP government for making a mockery of the parliamentary system. "Never in my political career did I see such happenings in Rajya Sabha," he said while talking to media in New Delhi after the Upper House passed the two farm bills. Keshava Rao alleged that the Centre influenced Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman thus suppressing the voice of other parties. The government was scared of voting, he said, taking objection to BJP's attitude of not engaging with farmer associations on this issue.

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K Keshava Rao

A watershed moment in Indian agriculture history

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the passing of the farm Bills and described it as a watershed moment in the history of Indian agriculture.

The two Bills -- Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 -- were passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday. The House also rejected the demand of several Opposition parties to send the two Bills to a Rajya Sabha Select

Committee for greater scrutiny. "These (farm) Bills will ensure complete transformation of the agriculture sector and empower farmers," the Prime Minister said in a series of tweets.

He added that farmers for decades were bound by constraints and bullied by middlemen and the bills passed by the Parliament would liberate them.

"These (farm) Bills will add impetus to efforts to double the income of farmers and ensure them greater prosperity."

Continued on Page 5



Death orders: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday lashed out at the Narendra Modi government for Parliament's nod to two farm sector reform bills and termed it "death orders against farmers". In a strongly worded tweet, Rahul Gandhi said "democracy is ashamed" as the government "took out death orders against farmers in the Rajya Sabha". "The farmer who grows gold from the earth, the pride of the Modi government makes them cry. Democracy is ashamed by the manner in which the government took out death orders against farmers in the Rajya Sabha," Rahul Gandhi tweeted.



Delhi cops on toes as farmers chant 'Dilli Chalo' with tractors



Security personnel at Parliament House

New Delhi: As farmers march towards the national capital to voice their discontent over the contentious agri Bills, two of the Bills have already been passed by both Houses of Parliament - the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020.

Despite police 'bandobast' in place on both sides of the borders, the farmers are eager to be heard.

In Haryana, farmers blocked roads to protest the new farm Bills. Wearing Kurtas, many farmers tried to block roads in Ambala. National Highway 344 which is better known as Ambala-Roorkee national highway is blocked. In Kaithal too, farmers blocked the Ambala-Hisar highway. The story is not very different in Kurukshetra where local farmers blocked key roads to Kurukshetra and Shahabad.

With the matter being politically sensitive, most political parties sided with the farmers. After SAD leader Harsimrat Kaur resigned from the Union Cabinet, Ram Karan Kala, Sha-

habad MLA of Jannayak Janta Party, an ally of the BJP in Haryana was spotted at a protest site. Inside Parliament, the opposition created a ruckus as the two Bills were being passed.

As organisations like Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) are already threatening to march to the capital where the Parliament is in session, Delhi Police has been put on alert mode. The police has increased its patrol and barricades in border areas with Haryana as well as in Ghazipur.

With Punjab Youth Congress along with farmers hitting the Delhi-Chandigarh national highway to take part in a tractor rally headed to Delhi, the police have been asked to be on their toes.

The bone of contention has been the two Bills as well as the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President J.P. Nadda both have clarified that the MSP is not going anywhere, farmers' unions believe the Bills will phase out the MSP and the traditional grain market system.

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Changing lives of tribal women and youth



Shaikh Raziya

TEJAL SINHA

Social entrepreneur Shaikh Raziya started Bastar Food in 2017 to uplift Bastar's tribal women and educated youth, often labelled Naxals by default, by creating job opportunities specifically for them

'Mahua' flowers found in the forests of central and north India, are traditionally fermented to produce an alcoholic drink. Rich in protein, vitamins and minerals, locals also make laddoos from mahua flowers. Later the locals approached Raziya in search of work.

Raziya, who holds a master's degree in microbiology, was working as a researcher at an NGO. The key areas of her research work were health, nutrition, and livelihood. She also conducted training workshops for tribal women, educating them on the necessary diets during and post-pregnancy while also encouraging them to pursue their skills and knowledge to start small-scale businesses and earn a livelihood.

Raziya said that she tried convincing government officers that they also needed financial support but to no avail.

"They told me that this was not my business and that I was just a researcher who should focus on her work. But what good is research when no steps and actions are taken from it?" she asks.

After she completed her projects at the NGO in 2017, she decided to take matters into her own hands and started up from her home. The motive to start Bastar Foods was not only to uplift the tribal women but also the edu-

cated youth in the district, often labelled Naxals by default, by creating job opportunities specifically for them. She turned away the job opportunities that came her way to work at government offices and other organisations.

Raziya noticed that while there were products being made in the district, most lagged in terms of packaging, hygiene, licensing, and marketing. She began by providing services of packaging, identifying a market, branding, and helping out with cost analysis.

"We also guide them on applying for various licences and the importance of doing nutritional analysis for every product," she adds.

Mahua miracle

Ten tribal women whose husbands had migrated to cities in search of work approached Raziya. The group of women told her about ladoos made from Mahua flowers, which are traditionally used to make liquor. Raziya saw that the other ingredients being used were of poor quality and taste, but agreed to help and dedicated the next six months towards research and development of the product.

She found that the mahua flower, a source of natural sweetener, has a high nutritional value that can benefit children and mothers by increasing haemoglobin levels in their blood as well.

Empowering the youth

The Bastar-based social entrepreneur is in the process also opening up opportunities to young people.

Raziya explains, "Many would come and learn technology operations. Since it is a mainly Hindi-speaking region and most tech-related work requires an understanding of English, we translated the terms into Hindi and taught them."

The pandemic impact

Amazon reached out to Bastar Food to meet its consumers demand for natural and organic products. When the company was about to ship its first orders to different cities earlier this month, the nationwide lockdown put all operations on halt. They have paused all business operations since then.

Raziya says, "We got delayed and at the same time so many projects have been struck down, which would help create a livelihood not only for the village women but also for the college going youth. I wanted to set an example that nothing is impossible in Bastar. If you think that Bastar is a Naxal-affected area where there are no resources, you are wrong," she adds.

Gradually, the team went on to create a website and entered the social media space. They hope to launch a YouTube channel as well.



Collection By Rahul Mishra @ FDCI ICW 2020

Rahul Mishra's opulence with responsibility

PUJA GUPTA

Day 2 of the first-ever digital India Couture Week (ICW) featured designers who are recognised as the new guard of Indian Couture-Rahul Mishra and Amit Aggarwal.

Unlike many of the names showcasing at the event, this is not Mishra's first virtual couture outing; he showcased his collection 'Butterfly People' at the recently held digital Paris Haute Couture Calendar.

'Lotus Pond' is an extension of his Paris Haute Couture collection; it is a symbolise hope and optimism for a better future. The motif of the lotus is known to symbolise self-regeneration and rebirth, purity, enlightenment, even in murky waters a beautiful bloom appears. It is an ode to the evolving ecosystem of aquatic life; plants, fish, planktons, dragonflies and butterflies embroidered together by the sublime flower, reveals the designer. Mishra reveals that this collection is a creative expression, quoting Hans Christian Anderson, he states, "Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." The collection is a testament to the spirit of the designer, his vote for slow fashion and his steadfast commitment to his team to not only survive but flourish through these tough times.

It has been the designers endeavour to support his team, hand embroiderers and tailors through the current crisis. "We have been fortunate to be able to stand by them through this storm and are committed to continue doing so. It's the very foundation of our brand values. We are a large family - that includes hundreds of people including local craftsmen and workers."

Mishra showcased his collection through a short-film shot at the Tijara Fort Palace in Rajasthan. Models were seen wearing ensembles with the designers' signature 3D embroideries with motifs of butterflies, dragonflies, birds and aquatic life. The video captured the most intricate, multi-colour thread work, jali work, sequin embroidery and surface texture on every piece. Mishra says the collection looks at "entire disruption" brought on to the industry by the pandemic and the ones sustaining it. He hopes to keep growing sustainably and empowering the community of artisans that bring to life such masterpieces. "Today, we collectively acknowledge the value of beauty. It gave us a deep sense of joy and nourishment to return to our studio," says the International Woolmark Prize winner in his note.

Contemporary Couture with Amit Aggarwal

Bringing together the power of the ocean, sky, earth on Day 2 of the first-ever digital India Couture Week (ICW)

"As we experience the world through the safety of our homes, the oceans continue to churn, the wind continues to blow and the sky still holds her secrets and celebration from sunrise to twilight. Their freedom and lightness is a promise of new beginnings every moment," says designer Amit Aggarwal as he launched his latest couture collection on Day 2 of the first-ever digital edition of the India Couture Week (ICW) on Saturday. The self confessed traditionalist has reinvented the wheel so to speak when it comes to traditional ensembles. "We constantly try and evolve the language of modern Indian craftsmanship. I think the pandemic has really got us all thinking about a higher responsibility towards our surroundings and nature. I feel nature has played a very important role in this collection," reveals the designer.

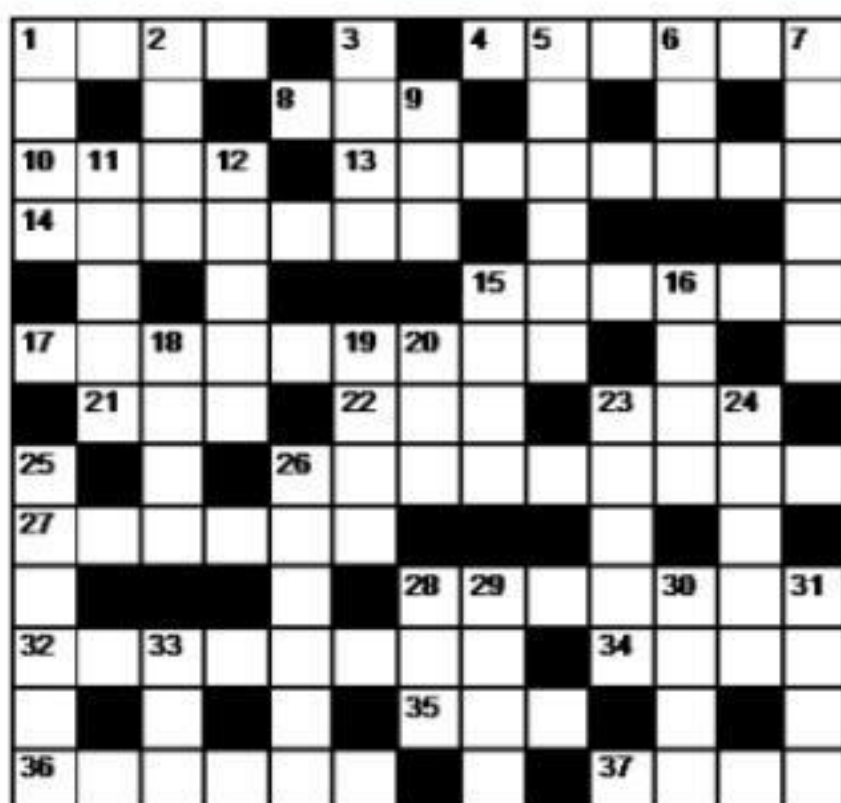
Aggarwal captures nature through "the weightlessness of the ocean, the caress of the wind, and cradles the earth" with this collection in a dramatic underwater show, which played on various FDCI platforms for five minutes.

Staying true to vision of futuristic fashion and use of industrial material and signature polymers, the designer presented three dimensional, hand embroidered blouses in pearl and industrial yarn, paired with structured hand woven metallic polymer lehenga, striped structured lehengas complimented by structured lace palla, three-dimensional, hand embroidered blouses in pearl and yarns. The ensembles also consisted of three dimensional moulded blouses with lace and metallic polymer details. "Couture for me is a feeling of wearing an outfit that is made especially for you, embodying your spirit and aesthetic. We always tread a balance of the surreal and functionality of the garment and it's exciting to translate that vision into a digital experience. At the heart of it is our constant brand story of intricate craftsmanship and hand embroidery," says the designer.

Through his show, Aggarwal also launched his website which offers sarees and lehengas, dresses, separates and his luxury prêt line. — PG



Collection By Amit Aggarwal



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 19

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Aide or accomplice (4)
- 4 Sudden violent wind (6)
- 8 A young dog (3)
- 10 Cut with acid (4)
- 13 Greed for gain (8)
- 14 Truly or honourably (7)
- 15 Fix securely (6)
- 17 Diffidence (4-5)
- 21 Extinct flightless bird (3)
- 22 Consumed (3)
- 23 Wine (Fr.) (3)
- 26 Protected (9)
- 27 Japanese number puzzle (6)
- 28 Type of billowing cloud (7)
- 32 Cross-country skiing (8)
- 34 Scarf (4)
- 35 Cooking vessel (3)
- 36 Vigorous (6)
- 37 Slim (4)

Down

- 1 Skater's leap (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 19

NEWS ROUNDUP

Delnaaz Irani: I want people to see me in a new light

Actress Delnaaz Irani has been entertaining fans mostly with her comic roles, but she wants people to see her in a new light now.

"I believe I am a good actor who happens to excel in comic roles. I really want people to see me in a new light. I want producers to focus on my versatility and let me prove that I can also pull off other shades," she said.

"I am telling them to please take a risk because if the producer will not break an actor's image then who will? I am sure as an actor, one will do a grand job because a good actor will always be a good actor irrespective of the role and the character. I would like to explore the web series format and also the short films' space. The variety of shades which this space provides is excellent. To me medium was never an issue, I gave one and a half years continuously to theatre. And I enjoyed every bit of it. I want to try every space," added Delnaaz.

She has now joined the cast of the show "Choti Sarraarni". "The entry of my character Martha will be pathbreaking in 'Choti Sarraarni' and she will bring a huge change in Meher and Sarabjeet's life. It will create a lot of ups and downs. She is a very stern personality but at the same time very caring and loving. She has a handicapped child and she has loads of responsibilities. It is also non-comic and the look of the character is very classy. Martha is not at all a loud character and that attracted me towards this role," said Delnaaz.



Terrorists build underground bunkers in Shopian to escape Army pursuit

SUMIR KAUL

Shopian (PTI): Hideouts in higher reaches and seeking refuge in local houses are a thing of the past as terrorists in Kashmir valley now dig underground bunkers in dense orchards and even in seasonal streams to escape the dragnet of army and security forces. "This trend has been witnessed off late in twin districts of Pulwama and Shopian with the latter having a majority of them in view of dense apple orchards and jungles," says Colonel A K Singh, heading the 44 Rashtriya Rifles, the army's counter-insurgent unit which earned a distinction of having maximum kills of terrorists as well as surrenders or

apprehensions.

Talking to PTI from the well-fortified 44-RR headquarters, Col Singh and his team is always seen engaging with locals to sort out their problems which may even include career counselling or guidance in education but when it comes to countering terrorists, they are much ahead by neutralising 47 militants and ensuring detentions and surrender of seven of them. For Col Singh and his team, who man two areas of Shopian and three of Pulwama districts, both considered to be hotbeds of militancy, the task has not been easy after recovery of underground bunkers where terrorists could hide for several days without being noticed by the security forces.



The shocker was a hideout in the middle of Rambai Ara, known for fluctuating water levels and often affected by flash floods, that led Col Singh and his team members back to the drawing board. "The terrorists were hiding inside an iron bunker made

in the middle of Rambai Ara. The alert troops saw an opening of an empty oil barrel which was subsequently used by terrorists to enter into the bunker.

"This was something worth suspicion and discreet surveillance was mounted on the open-

ing. Much to our surprise, we saw terrorists emerging out from underground in the middle of the stream, which generally has water gushing only in the rainy season," he said. Five terrorists belonging to banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen were killed after the troops launched an attack earlier this year. However, for the army, it was not the statistics of the number of kills but a worrisome trend indicating that terrorists were now well-entrenched inside the underground bunkers.

With the help of technical intelligence coupled with human resources, a survey was ordered of surrounding areas especially in Shopian and the results were encouraging as reports of more

cavities in traditional Kashmiri households and underground bunkers started surfacing. Covered by dense apple trees and situated at a height, the army found another underground bunker in Bandpoh in June this year where terrorists had managed to create a 12 feet by 10 feet room.

The militants were enjoying their stay while army soldiers were looking for them in other civilian areas. The underground bunker finally lay exposed after troops noticed a polythene sheet covering nothing and the earth nearby was filled recently.

"The difficult moment for us during this operation was the presence of nearly 50 ladies in the orchards which included one

who was pregnant. We initiated an evacuation process and rushed the pregnant lady to a nearby health centre before launching an operation. Five terrorists were gunned down around the underground bunker, says Col Singh, who after taking over the command of 44-Rashtriya Rifles had visited some civilian houses whose kins had joined terror groups.

The officer advised the family members to ensure their return and assured them of all possible assistance. Another interesting hide and seek strategy was witnessed in Labipora in Shopian where terrorists had covered an iron box on the banks of a river and kept a small pipe for breathing while hiding underground.

AGRICULTURE-RELATED FARM BILLS PASSED

Distraught farmers launch protest in Punjab and Haryana

New Delhi: The farmers have expressed apprehensions that the three bills will pave a way for dismantling the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

Farmers in Haryana began their protest against the agriculture-related farm bills on Sunday amid elaborate security arrangements which have been made to ensure that the event passes off smoothly.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union's Haryana unit, supported by some other farmer outfits, is holding a statewide protest against the Centre's farm bills during which protesters will block roads for three hours from 12 pm to 3 pm.

The farmers are also joined by the 'arhtiyas' or commission agents during their protest.

Farmers at several places in Punjab on Sunday burnt copies of farm bills and effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the bills related to the agriculture sector will destroy their livelihood.

At many places, including Ludhiana, Ferozepur, Sangrur and Barnala, the protesters raised slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre.

"These farm bills will destroy the farmers and farm labourers and we strongly oppose these bills," a



farmer in Talwandi Sabo.

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar said all parties, except the

Akali Dal and the BJP, are standing with the farmers for their cause. Meanwhile, the Haryana gov-

ernment issued directions to ensure law and order, and minimise inconvenience to the people of the state during the protest from 12 noon to 3 pm on Sunday.

Executive magistrates have been directed to remain stationed along with their police counterparts at all such places where congregation of protestors is anticipated.

The Haryana Police was conducting patrolling of the national and state highways and important roads in various parts of the state, including Ambala, Kurukshetra, Sonapat, Jind, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar and Bhiwani.

Authorities said traffic will be diverted to alternative routes if the protest intensifies.

Don't sign farm bills: Sukhbir urges Prez

New Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Sunday urged the President not to give his assent to the farm bills passed by Rajya Sabha, asking him to return them to Parliament for reconsideration.

Badal said the passage of the bills marked a 'sad day' for democracy and millions in the country.

"Democracy means consensus, not majority oppression," the SAD leader said in a statement shortly after Rajya Sabha passed two of the three bills.

In a rarely exercised provision, the Constitution gives the President the power to withhold assent to certain categories of bills passed by Parliament. "Please stand by the farmers,

'kisan mazdoors', 'arhtiyas', mandi labour and Dalits," Badal urged President Ram Nath Kovind.

"Please intervene on their behalf with the government. Otherwise they will never forgive us," he said in the statement.

"Don't let the 'annadata' (farmers) starve or sleep on the roads," he added.

92,605 new Covid cases, 1,133 deaths in 24 hrs

New Delhi: India's Covid-19 case tally crosses 54-lakh mark with a spike of 92,605 new cases and 1,133 deaths in last 24 hours.

The total case tally stands at 54,00,620 including 10,10,824 active cases, 43,03,044 cured/discharged/migrated and 86,752 deaths, says ministry of health and family welfare.

Meanwhile, the Indian Council of Medical Research said that 6,36,61,060 samples tested up to September 19 for COVID-19. Of these, 12,06,806 samples were

tested on Saturday. -

India has tested a record 12 lakh samples for coronavirus in the last

24 hours, informed the Union ministry of health and family welfare on Sunday.

So far, as many as 6.37 crore samples have been tested across the country.

"India scales another peak. In last 24 hours, 12 lakh tests were conducted across the country which is an all-time record high. Total COVID-19 tests more than 6.37 crore," the ministry tweeted.



Journalist's bail plea: Didn't commit crime, I'm framed

New Delhi (IANS): Freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma arrested under the Official Secrets Act has claimed innocence, telling a Delhi court in his bail plea that he did not commit any crime but framed in a false case.

A Patiala House court is likely to hear the matter on Tuesday.

"The applicant is being framed in a false case. The applicant has not committed any offence," Sharma said in his plea filed through advocate Amish Aggarwala. The plea also said that Sharma was taken into custody by

the Delhi Police Special Cell, Janakpuri, on September 14. His house was searched by police on September 14 night and "no incriminating evidence was found".

According to the Delhi Police, Sharma was arrested by the Special Cell under the OSA on charge of passing sensitive information to Chinese intelligence. A Chinese woman and a Nepalese man too have been arrested in the case.

Sharma's bail plea pointed out that he suffers from various medical ailments, including high blood pressure, for over a decade.

"The applicant is about 61 years of age, and is suffering from acute case of sinus, and requires constant treatment through a nebuliser. He has also undergone two surgeries for the same. Due to the same, he is at high risk to COVID-19... he is also a patient of high blood pressure, and taking medication (Triolmezest) for the same for the past decade," Sharma said in his bail plea. The petitioner said Sharma's family had not been allowed access to him, nor any information regarding the allegations against him furnished.

With voluntary attendance, schools to reopen today

New Delhi: After almost six-months, schools in some States will reopen their gates to senior students, and a long list of rules to be followed as per the Covid-19 protocol announced in Unlock 4 by the Central government.

In the Unlock 4 guidelines, the union home ministry had permitted schools to reopen from September 21 but left the final call to the states. It did, however, lay down a set of rules for schools to reopen. Students and teachers residing in containment zones are not permitted to attend schools. Schools are allowed to operate only with 50% teaching and non-teaching staff, while only students

from classes 9 to 12 can attend, that too on voluntary basis. Students who do decide to attend have to get a permission slip signed by their parents or guardians. Since attendance will be on voluntary basis, schools that do decide to reopen will have to continue online classes for students who decide against attending physically.

Schools reopening should mandatorily have thermal scanners at the entrance, and students, teachers and other staff can enter only after temperature checks. Though not compulsory, schools have been advised to operate separate gates for entry and exit.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS

Taapsee extends support to Anurag Kashyap

Mumbai: Taapsee Pannu came out in support of filmmaker Anurag Kashyap who was accused of sexual assault by actor Payal Ghosh.

In an Instagram post on Sunday, the Thappad actor called her friend, Kashyap the biggest feminist.

She said, "For you, my friend, are the biggest feminist I know."

See you on the sets soon of yet another piece of art that shows how powerful and significant women are in the world you create :)"

She shared a picture of both of them from the sets of, what looked like, Manmarziyaan. Backing Ms Ghosh, actor Kan-gana Ranaut called for Anurag Kashyap's arrest on Twitter.

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap on Sunday said the sexual harass-

ment allegations levelled against him by actor Payal Ghosh are

"baseless". Payal Ghosh has accused filmmaker Anurag Kashyap of sexual harassment.

Payal took to her verified Twitter account to open up against Kashyap on Saturday evening. She tagged the office of the Prime Minister of India in her tweet.

"@anuragkashyap72 has forced himself on me and extremely badly. @PMOIndia @narendramodi ji, kindly take action and let the country see the demon behind this creative guy. I am aware that it can harm me and my security is at risk. Pls help!" tweeted Payal.

Responding to sexual assault allegations of actress Payal Ghosh, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap rejected all the accusations saying they are "baseless".



'China using aggression to stop India from building defence infra in border areas'

Washington (PTI): China has adopted an aggressive posture against India to stop New Delhi from building defence infrastructure along the border, the absence of which gives Beijing a strategic advantage, a top Indian-American lawmaker has said. The Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) have been locked in a tense standoff in multiple areas along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since early May.

"This is a serious situation. It all started when basically, the Indian government built infrastructure entirely on its own side of the border to shore up defences in this area, bordering China. The Chinese apparently took offense of that and then made very provocative moves at that point in the Galwan area," Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi told PTI in an interview.

Krishnamoorthi, who is seeking his third-consecutive election to the House of Representatives



from Illinois, is the first and only Indian-American lawmaker in the powerful House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The committee last week had a classified briefing on China's aggression against India and the border situation.

Krishnamoorthi refused to divulge details of the briefing, but expressed serious concern over the Chinese actions.

"What is ironic about this situation is that the Chinese had already built up infrastructure on their side of the border previously.

And so, what I'm very concerned about is that the Chinese making yet another series of provocative moves on the heels of having done similar things with regard to border disputes, or other tensions with Taiwan, Japan Vietnam and the Philippines in the South China Sea," he said.

Tensions have escalated manifold along the LAC in eastern Ladakh after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

China, Krishnamoorthi said, was not acting like a good neighbour. He said it is time for China's neighbours to join hands.

"I think the neighbourhood association, so to speak, the countries in the region, along with others, need to make it very clear that the Chinese government cannot use military measures to try to get their way when diplomacy should always be the mode of settling dif-

ferences," he said.

Krishnamoorthi said the neighbouring countries of China are increasingly having dialogue about how to create a rules based international order in the Indo-Pacific region.

"That is why the United States, India, Australia, Japan and others have come together to discuss how to avoid aggression or military moves that could really disrupt the region," he said.

To China's motive behind stopping India from building defence infrastructure, Krishnamoorthi said Beijing does not want to handover strategic advantage. "They feel that they had an advantage when only they had the requisite infrastructure whether it was airfields or roads or railways on their side, and India did not."

"I think it's entirely within a sovereign nations prerogative to shore up its own defences whenever it perceives them to be short of what they need to counter aggression," he said.

Free Tirumala temple from muggers and black sheep

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, the board that manages the affairs of the richest god, Lord Venkateshwara has been under cloud of plethora of controversies for long irrespective of the party in power. The controversies range from the appointment of board members to the number of hills that belong to the Lord of Seven Hills, to propagating other religion in Tirumala, missing jewellery of the Lord, the move by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government to regularise the lands “additionally occupied” by two mutts on the sacred hill, demolition of “veyi kaalla mandapam” (thousand-pillar auditorium), the case of missing gold dollars and alleged “disappearance” of gold ornaments presented to the Lord by Emperor Srikrishna Devaraya over 500 years ago, the controversies are too many. The latest controversy is whether or not one should sign a declaration before entering the temple if he belongs to some other faith. The measures taken by the successive

governments have only succeeded in putting the issues on backburner and new controversies continue to surface. It is time a serious thought is given by the people, the political parties, the seers and Hindu religious organisations on delinking the functioning of the TTD from government control. We have some best examples like Swaminarayan Trust in Gujarat with roots in the Vedas which strives to care for the world by caring for societies, families and individuals. This is done by mass motivation and individual attention, through elevating projects for all, irrespective of class, creed, colour or country. Its universal work through a worldwide network of over 3,300 centres has received many national and international awards and affiliation with the United Nations. Today, over a million or more Swaminarayan followers begin their day with puja and meditation, lead upright lives and donate regular hours in serving others. No Alcohol, No Addictions, No Adultery, No Meat, No Impurity of Body and Mind are their five life-time vows. They also reach out to millions of individuals through a network of mandirs and centres. They are more than a place of worship and gathering. They are permanent source of peace and reformation for people of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs. We also have the example of ISKCON which systematically propagates spiritual knowl-

edge to society at large and to educate all people in the techniques of spiritual life in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world. With its roots in ancient Indian and Vaishnava culture, devotees find expression in vibrant colours, striking melodies and enlivening dramatic presentations. In order to recognise and nurture artistic talent, ISKCON has created a community for artists called VANDE (Vaishnava Arts for a New Devotional Era), with the aim to attract the public and patrons of arts through quality presentations. Members sometimes convey their devotion through Fine Arts, Theatre, Dance, Music, Cinema, Literature and Architecture. Similarly, we have other organisations like the Brahmakumaris and Isha Foundation. When the governments are looking for more and more private partnership in every field, why not give up their hold on the TTD and create a Trust to manage the affairs of Lord Balaji strictly in accordance with Agama Sastra. This is something, the government, the political parties and the Jeeyar Swamijis and others should ponder over seriously. The Trust should be free from any political shade and none of the religious institutions or organisations or individuals having allegiance to any political party should be on the Trust Board. Are the politicians listening?



‘Centre’s new Agri Bill will spell doom for farmers’

DR RAMESH CHENNAMANENI

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) MPs will strongly oppose the new Agriculture Bill to be introduced by the Central government in the Rajya Sabha on Monday and also vote against it. Telangana State Chief Minister and TRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao instructed TRS MPs to this extent, stating that the Bill will cause severe harm to the farming community and was only meant to benefit the corporates.

The Lok Sabha has passed three agriculture sector Bills in the ongoing monsoon session amid strong protests by Opposition parties. The two farm Bills - one on agricultural market reforms and the other on contract farming provisions - while the other one is on amending Essential Commodities Act. Already Sant Akali Dal (SAD) leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Union Council of Ministers in protest against the legislation.

The Opposition parties opposed the three Bills, calling them “anti-farmers”. The issues and fears raised by them include end of ‘minimum support price’ (MSP) regime in due course, irrelevance of State-controlled Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) ‘mandis’, risk of losing out land rights under contract farming rule, reduction in price of farm produce due to market domination by big agri-businesses and exploitation of farmers by big contractors through contract farming practices.

These three Bills have to be seen holistically, as they are interdependent with one another. The basic objective of these three bills clearly shows to create enabling conditions to establish corporate agriculture on the long run including foreign direct investment in retail sector. In other words, for the first time after Independence, India is preparing to part away with its nationally accepted Small Farmer Economy concept.

The key provisions of the proposed legislation are intended to help small and marginal farmers (86% of total farmers) who do not have means to either bargain for their produce to get a better price or invest in technology to improve the productivity of farms. The Bill on agriculture market seeks to allow farmers to sell their produce outside APMC ‘mandis’ to whoever they want. The legislation on contract farming will, on the other hand, allow farmers to enter into a contract with agri-business firms or large retailers on pre-agreed prices of their produce. This is supposed to help small and marginal farmers as the legislation will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. It means the legislation will do away with the imposition of stockholding limits on such items except under extraordinary circumstances such as war and natural calamities. This provision is expected to attract private sector/foreign direct investment into the agriculture sector.

Agriculture together with horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and agro-forestry are the main sources of income for the population and it is the most obvious engine for social equity and economic growth of the country. However, due to small holdings, fragmentation, low investment capacities, lack of access to technologies, credit and marketing institutions, small farming economy is in a serious crisis. We all have been observing that agri-food systems are undergoing rapid transformation. Increasing concentration in processing, trading, marketing and retailing is being observed in all regions and in all segments of production-distribution chains in India. Given this background, contract farming is seen by proponents as a way to raise small-farm income by delivering technology and market information to small farmers, incorporating them into remunerative new markets. Critics, however, see it as a strategy for agribusiness firms to pass production risk to farmers, taking advantage of an unequal bargaining relationship. There is also concern that contract farming will worsen rural income inequality by favouring larger farmers.

As experiences from other parts of the world shows, multi-national companies are not famous for improving the situation of farmers by paying better prices, if at all they pay stable prices. They need reliable supplies and, therefore favour contract-farming and large-scale suppliers, because they are more reliable, which gags the small farmers and pushes prices down. They will definitely induce more efficient supply chains through improved infrastructure (roads, cold storages) but who will profit from these efficiencies is the question. They will certainly introduce new technology, more variety in choice, but there is no guarantee and also no mandatory that they will source this only from India as earlier 30% mandatory local sourcing in FDI has been scrapped. They are usually able to achieve price reductions through economies of scale, but certainly at the cost of huge number of jobs lost in informal traditional sectors. The quality of food produced and the environmental implications of this production is also under severe criticism worldwide.

Finally, Chief Minister of Telangana, Chandrashekhara Rao also found fault with the Centre’s decision to reduce the import tax from 50 per cent to 15 per cent allowing import of one crore tons of maize from abroad. He pointed out that the Centre had already procured 70-75 lakh tons of maize. “Whom does the Centre want to benefit at a time when the nation is facing an economic slowdown? We have plenty of maize produced in the country. What is the point of reducing the taxes by 35 per cent and allowing imports of maize? What will happen to our farmers and their produce?” he demanded to know.

(The writer is a member of Telangana Legislative Assembly and Humboldt-expert in agriculture, environment and cooperation)

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Hunjunwala

There is a growing reaction against China in the world today. Multinational companies are quitting China and countries are reluctant to import goods from China. But we will lose the opportunity if we cannot compete with Thailand and Vietnam. Germany will import cheap goods from Thailand instead of expensive goods from India. The challenge is to manufacture goods cheaper than any other country in the world.

The massive 200 lakh crore Atma Nirbhar package is focused on providing loans. These are beneficial when there is demand in the market. The industrialist can then borrow from the bank, put up a factory, make the goods and sell them in the market. At present, however, there is no demand in the market. In this situation more loans will only push the borrowers deeper into debt and trouble. The interest burden will increase and they will not be able to sell their goods in absence of a robust demand; and they will not be able to repay the loans. The Atma Nirbhar package will not deliver.

Suggestion is being made that the government should provide cash transfers to the people so that demand is generated in the economy. This strategy is correct to the extent that demand will be generated in the economy. However, if we continue to be open to the world market, the demand can go to the purchase of Thai goods instead of Chinese goods. Our government will be burdened by debt while the benefit will accrue to Thailand.

Professor A K Gulati of Indian Council for International Economic Relations has stressed the need to improve the productivity of our workers. He is right. Our workers produce about one-half of the goods produced by their Chinese counterparts. Our worker makes five footballs in a day if the Chinese worker makes 10. Increase in productivity will reduce the cost of footballs made by us and enable our exports. Then we can compete with Thailand. The difficulty here is twofold. Firstly, productivity cannot be improved in a day. It is a long-drawn process requiring reform of labour laws, installation of modern machines and improvement in managerial skills. This cannot be done in a few months. Secondly, the world economy is not likely to revive anytime soon. Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison has said that the “post-pandemic world will be a poor, dangerous, and disorderly world. Countries will have major trade falls, imbalances, and disputes...” We will

not be able to export the goods even if we make them cheap because of the disorderly world economy. It is like arranging a marriage ceremony under a tent during a storm.

A positive indicator amidst these dark clouds is that our electronic exports have doubled in the last few years. At the same time a recent report by Citi Research says that “none of the key parameters suggest any material improvement in the manufacturing sector over the last six years.” Therefore, the improvement in electronics exports could be the exception that proves the rule.

We must recognize that the price of raw materials and finished goods in India is same as in Thailand. These prices are today determined by the world market. Then why is it that we cannot make goods at the same cost as Thailand? Here we should give attention to the words of B R Sikri, President of Federation of Pharma Entrepreneurs. He has said that the primary reason for the Indian Pharma industry sourcing material from China was the high cost of production in India due to the lack of fast track approvals, environment flexibility, regulatory approvals on a prompt basis, cheaper land, cheaper power, etc. Underlying these problems is our bureaucracy. The time taken in obtaining a regulatory approval or environmental clearance is wholly due to the bureaucracy seeking grease money at every step. The price of power in India is more because the officials of the State Electricity Boards sell the electricity on the sly. I know of industrialists who bypass their meters with the cooperation of the officials. The list can go on and on. Therefore, the government must reign in the bureaucracy. Indeed, corruption is rampant in China as well. However, corruption there is constructive while it is obstructive in India. Deng Xiaoping had given incentives to local officials to establish industries. They were given promotions and higher salaries if they could attract industries. Thus, the officials then went out of their way to facilitate establishment of industries. In India it is the reverse. An honest official is hounded by the corrupt and soon got transferred to an obscure posting.

The government should have a confidential survey done by the related public. The work of an Executive Engineer of the State Electricity Board, for example, must be assessed by the consumers of his division. Those ranked at lowest 10 percent should be retired prematurely. Kautilya had said that the king should appoint spies to track the corruption among the officials; and another spy to spy on the frontline spies to ensure that they do not get corrupted. Alas! Instead of following this correct advice of our tradition, the government is pampering its employees; paying increased DA when the country is



Professor A K Gulati of Indian Council for International Economic Relations has stressed the need to improve the productivity of our workers. He is right. Our workers produce about one-half of the goods produced by their Chinese counterparts. Our worker makes five footballs in a day if the Chinese worker makes 10. Increase in productivity will reduce the cost of footballs made by us and enable our exports. Then we can compete with Thailand. The difficulty here is twofold. Firstly, productivity cannot be improved in a day. It is a long-drawn process requiring reform of labour laws, installation of modern machines and improvement in managerial skills. This cannot be done in a few months. Secondly, the world economy is not likely to revive anytime soon

sinking; and taking no step to proactively identify and dismiss corrupt officials. This is the reason that Sikri says Indian Pharma is importing from China.

The reason we are unable to compete with China and Thailand is not the culture of our workers. Indian workers do wonders in the United States. Large numbers of them are employed by multinationals like Microsoft and Cisco. The problem is that the Indian industrialist is hamstrung by bureaucratic extortion.

Simultaneously we should impose high import duties on consumer goods for the present--until we can improve productivity of our workers and reform our bureaucracy. The Government should take the people into confidence and tell them that the choice is between unemployment

with no money in the pocket to buy the cheap goods lying in the shopping windows; or expensive goods with money in the pocket to buy them.

At the same time the government has taken has provided that tenders less than Rs 200 crore will no longer be required to go global. Chinese apps like Tik Tok have been banned. 101 defense equipment will now be made within India. These steps are in the right direction but may be like a drop in the ocean. Atma Nirbhar Bharat will succeed only if the government takes step to control the bureaucracy at the ground level. Mere distribution of loans will only sink the economy.

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

LETTERS

We need to improve medical facilities

With the outbreak of novel corona pandemic, all countries in the world seem to have realised their actual medical capacities in dealing with the unexpected emergency situations. There are so many articles making rounds on social media platforms regarding the less availability of medical colleges, hospitals and medical professionals including doctors, staff nurses and other paramedics in the country. It is high time for the government to bring out new policies for enhancement of medical education in the country and set up regional medical councils to monitor the quality education in this field. By doing so, the country will be ready to face any kind of unexpected health emergencies in the future.

Thammi Dileep Kumar,
Palakurthy, Jangaon dist, TS

Who springs in the IPL autumn?

Dreadful bouncers, sixes overhead and stumpings in milliseconds, altogether cricketers have been daring to play dream 11 IPL after quarantining amid Covid-19 fear. Who springs in the autumn? Mumbai is trying to become the second team to win consecutive IPL titles. Mumbaiaiks have a strong batting and pace attack skills. But they lack spin assets as pitches in UAE are favourable for spinners. Recovering from Covid blow, CSK is looking to silence critics. Captain Dhoni and experienced players are a plus. As Raina and Harbhajan ruled out of the tournament, till date the team’s playing XI is unconfirmed. Delhi is a bal-

anced side with Ravichandran Ashwin, Shreyas Iyer, etc. But if they will not continue their spirit, all the efforts will be in vain. Orange army is looking to end the four-year drought of triumph. SRH’s bowling unit can cover the absence of finishers as they are capable of defending 120 runs. KKR wants to celebrate with their co-team Trivago by winning IPL. Talent of Caribbean all-rounders may burn into ashes as the pace department has to depend on Pat Cummins. KXIP are willing to perform as they did in 2014. Punjab’s top order is solid with their 12th KING (captain) KL Rahul leading from front. But if the top order fails there is no one to defend the low score. It is a tough task for Rajasthan to win 13th edition as they are going to depend on overseas stars for saying “Halla Bol”. There is a hope that the ocean of young talent may manage the Royals to the playoffs. RCB have a better batting line-up than any other team but bowling talent is not even half of the batting. So, it is hard for the Challengers to pull through the finals. This IPL is going to be different with no audience in the stands. Let’s wish that pandemic will not be the guest of IPL-2020.

DVSSP Gowtham, Hyderabad

Babri case should reach its logical conclusion

The Babri Masjid demolition case should be brought to an end as there is no dispute between Hindus and Muslims. It has been 28 years to handle this case, and now some of the accused are alive while some are no more. As per litigant Iqbal Ansari, he has also urged to special court of Central Bureau of Investigation to acquit all who have been accused in the case. As far as harmony is concerned between the Hindus and Muslims, it has been proved

when the Supreme Court announced its judgment on November 9 to reconstruct the Ram temple. There was no dispute at that time. So, this matter should be closed as soon as possible. The court will pronounce its judgment on September 30. Special SBI judge Surendra Kumar Yadav has directed all 32 accused party veterans such as LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, Kalyan Singh and Vinay Katiyar. The court said that all accused are to be present in the court when the verdict is announced. This issue is very important for both Hindus and Muslims.

Deepak Chawda, Hyderabad

Centre’s farm Bills are welcome steps

By passing the Agriculture Bills in Parliament, the government has shown its commitment for the welfare of the farmers which was overdue since 1991 when economic reforms were started. The agriculture sector remained untouched whose turn has now come, but the government will have to do extra work to allay the fear of farmers. The agitation which are going on in different parts of the country are a temporary phase as these are going on with political motive as elections are due in near future in Bihar, Bengal, Punjab and UP. In UP and Punjab, elections are due in 2022 and up to that period farmers will have faced new concept for at least in three crops and if will not face problems, then all agitation will be fizzled out. Farmers unions will have no role to play. In a nutshell, it is a good step but unnecessary fears should be alleviated.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar, Punjab

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VILLAGE, WARD SECRETARIAT EXAMS

Over 74% candidates appear on first day

- The exams are being held to fill up various categories of posts in village, ward secretariats
- The exams being conducted across the State strictly following the Covid protocols

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Even as restrictions prevailed under the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 74 per cent of candidates appeared for the village and ward secretariat exams on the first day on Sunday.

A total of 14 exams have been scheduled from Sunday to September 26, for for filling up of 19 posts in village and ward secretariats.

On the first day, the exams were conducted in two sessions. In the forenoon session, the State government conducted examinations for category-1 (panchayat secretary, Mahila police, ward administration secretary and welfare assistant). For these examinations, 3,40,386 candidates attended out of the total 4,56,997 candidates who received hall tickets, thus recording an attendance of 74.48 per cent, according to the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department authorities.



Candidates appearing for village/ward secretariat exams at the Government High School at Gollapudi in Vijayawada on Sunday
-Photo: Y Vinay Kumar

Highest number of 56,403 candidates appeared from Visakhapatnam district and the least number of candidates in Kadapa district, just 14,080, in the morning session. With regard to the attendance in percentage, the highest percentage of 77.04 was recorded in Visakhapatnam and the lowest percentage of 70.31 in Guntur.

The percentage of candidates who appeared for category-1 (Digital assistant) exam in the afternoon in the State is 73.85 per

cent. The exam was conducted at 1,059 centres across the 13 districts. The government issued hall tickets to 2,24,667 candidates and out of them 1,65,922 took the exam. Highest number of candidates 18,900 attended from Chittoor district, while only 5,777 candidates attended from Vizianagaram district, which is the least among all districts.

In all, 1,16,611 candidates did not appear for the forenoon exam and 58,745 candidates were absent for the afternoon exam

across the State.

The government has strictly followed the Covid-19 protocols, including ensuring social distance, checking the health conditions of the candidates and others. Only complaint on the conduct of examinations is that the government did not provide sanitisers at some examination centres. Candidates suggested to the government to ensure that the sanitisers are provided at least twice including before and after the examination.

638 Covid-19 patients attend exams

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: In all, 638 Covid-19 positive candidates appeared for the village and ward secretariat examinations on Sunday.

The State government has facilitated special isolation rooms for all these coronavirus patients at the examination centres and took special care of them. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been provided to the invigilators.

This isolation room facility was provided to ensure that no eligible candidate lost the opportunity in getting government jobs.

Of the total Covid patients who appeared for the exam on the first day, 422 were from the West Godavari district. Of these, 296 patients attended the category-1 exam conducted in the morning session and another 126 candidates appeared for the category-2 exam in the evening.

Covid +ve cases cross 6.25 lakh in State

- ❖ Overall positivity rate is 12.26 %
- ❖ 7,738 fresh cases during the last 24 hours
- ❖ With 57 deaths reported the toll rises to 5,359

Amaravati: The coronavirus tally touched 6.25 lakh in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday as 7,738 more cases were reported even as 10,608 more patients got cured.

In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday, the State recorded 57 fresh fatalities, taking the gross toll count to 5,359, according to the latest bulletin.

After a sum of 51,04,131 sample tests, the State saw a total of 6,25,514 coronavirus positives so far, the overall positivity rate being

12.26 per cent.

In all 5,41,319 patients have recovered, leaving 78,836 active cases in the State, the bulletin added.

The two Godavari districts, East and West, added 1,260 and 1,005 cases afresh, while Prakasam reported 869 anew. Krishna reported eight new Covid-19 casualties, Anantapur and Chittoor seven each and Prakasam and Visakhapatnam six each in 24 hours, the bulletin added.

APPGE CET-2020

Last date extended for submitting applications

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education has extended the last date for submitting applications for APPGE-CET-2020 up to September 23 with a fine of Rs 2,000.

The date has been extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and to facilitate those who could not submit the applica-

tions online within the due date to appear for APPGE CET.

The exams will be held from September 28 to 30. Candidates who have successfully submitted applications can download their hall tickets from September 23 onwards. They are advised to visit the portal sche.ap.gov.in/pgecet for examination schedule and all updates related to APPGE-CET.

YSRCP, TDP foes of farmers: APCC

- Says that while the Akali Dal and Biju Janata Dal opposed the anti-farmer Bills introduced by the Centre, two Opposition parties the YSRCP and TDP shamelessly supported them
- PCC president S Sailajanth and working president N Tulasi Reddy say the two anti-farmer Bills passed by the Centre will now lead to farmers becoming slaves to the capitalists
- There will be no market yards and the farmers will be deprived of the MSP, the Cong leaders opine

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Sunday lambasted both the YSR Congress Party and the TDP for blatantly supporting the BJP government when it introduced anti-farmer Bills in Parliament.

APCC president Dr S Sailajanth and working president Dr N Tulasi Reddy in separate statements said that the Akali Dal and Biju Janata Dal totally opposed the Bills and Akali Dal even left

the Cabinet in protest whereas the opposition parties TDP and the YSR Congress shamelessly supported them.

Describing both the parties as foes of farmers, they said that the two parties turned into puppets at the hands of the BJP. Once the Bills became enactments, there would be no minimum support price for the agriculture produce and there would be no market yards. "The farmers would become slaves to the capitalists," they said.

The Congress leaders described the Bills as swords laced with honey to cut the throats of farmers.

The YSR Congress party has taken a number of decisions which were against the farmers and it even had evaded payment of Rs 8,000 crore under loan waiver scheme. The State government is yet to set up price stabilisation fund for the farmers. It had reduced allocation of the funds for agriculture and irrigation and did not spend the allocated funds.

Assailing Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy for his uncharitable remarks against the Congress party, the Congress leaders said that he has no stature to criticise the Congress party. The MP has been trying hard to evade the criminal cases by being subservient to the BJP, they said and criticised Vijayasai for belittling the judiciary in Parliament.

SRIVARI BRAHMOTSAVAMS

Lord Malayappa rides on Chinna Sesha Vahanam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirumala: The darshan of Lord Sri Malayappa Swamy on the five-hooded Chinna Sesha Vahanam marked the second-day celebrations of the ongoing nine-day annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Sunday morning.

The processional deity in the guise of 'Murali Krishnudu' was mounted atop the Chinna Sesha Vahanam. According to mythology, it is believed that Chinnasesha is the personification of Vasuki - the king of serpents. To make the human race conscious of the divine Kundalini energy the Lord blessed His devotees on Chinna Sesha Vahanam.

Later in the evening, Hamsa Vahana Seva was observed as part of the Brahmotsavams on the second day.

TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal,



Lord Malayappa Swamy in the form of 'Murali Krishnudu' riding on Chinna Sesha Vahanam at Tirumala on Sunday

Board members Ananta, Siva Kumar, Kumaraguru, Sekhar Reddy, Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy, CVSO Gopinath Jatti and Srivari temple Dy EO Harindranath were also present.

It may be noted here that due

to Covid-19 guidelines, the Vahana Sevass are being held in Ekantham, without allowing devotees, and allowing only limited temple staff and officials.

However, for the sake of devotees the Vahana sevass are being telecast live on SVBC.

Shortage of ICU beds hits Delhi

Continued from P1

Out of these, 500 are available and around 764 are occupied.

Delhi has been consistently reporting more than 4,000 cases every day over the past week. On Saturday, the coronavirus tally in Delhi crossed the 2-lakh mark at 2,42,899. According to doctors, there is an increase of 4 per cent of patients admitted to ICU in the past 10 days.

Since there are no ICU beds in private hospitals, the burden now has come on to the government hospitals. Out of the total beds available in Delhi government hospitals, 14,996 about 7,043 are occupied.

Army occupies 6 new major heights

Continued from P1

The sources clarified that the Black Top and the Helmet Top hill features are on the Chinese side of the LAC while the heights occupied by the Indian side are on the LAC in Indian territory.

After the occupation of heights by the Indian Army, the Chinese Army has deployed around 3,000 additional troops of its combined arms brigade including its infantry and armoured troops near the Rezang la and Rechen La heights.

The Moldo garrison of the Chinese Army also has been fully activated with additional troops in the last few weeks by the People's Liberation Army.

After the Chinese aggression, the Indian security forces are working in close coordination and operations are being conducted under close monitoring of the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and

Army chief General Manoj Mukund Narwane. India and China have been engaged in major conflict near the Pangong Tso lake and several other friction points from Sub Sector North to the Chushul area of Ladakh. India also changed the rules of engagement of not using weapons during clashes with the Chinese after the PLA betrayed Indian soldiers in the Galwan valley and 20 Indian soldiers were killed there in June, this year.

A watershed moment in Indian agriculture history

Continued from P1

The agriculture sector is in desperate need of the latest technology and now farmers will have easier access that will boost production," Modi said. In another tweet, he said that he was reiterating it again that the system of minimum support price (MSP) and government procurement would continue. "We are here to serve our farmers and will ensure a better life for their coming generations," Modi wrote in a tweet after Parliament passed the farm Bills.

RS passes Farm Bills

Continued from P1

"They cut RSTV feed so the country couldn't see. They censored RSTV. Don't spread propaganda. We have evidence," Derek O'Brien later tweeted.

The Opposition had demanded that the Bills be sent to a select committee for further discussion.

The trouble started as the Deputy Chairman said the Opposition resolution was negated and moved to pass the Bills by voice vote. The Opposition demanded a physical voting, pointing out that they were sitting in Parliament. When the Chair refused, they rushed to the Well of the House, attempted to tear up the rule book and tried to snatch the Deputy Chairman's microphone.

"Mahabharat has broken out inside Parliament," Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad said. Opposition MPs could be seen recording the moment on cell-phones, drawing repeated rebuke from the chair.

Insisting that the rules were not being followed, O'Brien, whose point of order was not accepted, said, "This is a brutal murder of the Parliamentary democratic system".

The House was adjourned immediately for 10 minutes and

after it resumed, the voice vote took place amid repeated slogans from the opposition who again parked themselves in the Well of the House.

In a video statement, O'Brien who could earlier be seen waving the rule book, later said the Rajya Sabha TV was "cut off" and censored. "The members of the Opposition asked for a vote. We were denied it... It is a historic day, in the worst sense," he tweeted.

In the morning, while introducing the Bill, the government said the Bills are "historic". The BJP insists that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce Bill, and the Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, will bring a change in the lives of the farmers.

In June, three agriculture-related ordinances were issued - the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020.

To convert them into laws in the current session, the three corresponding Bills have been passed by the Lok Sabha.

Loans worth ₹70K cr sanctioned to discoms: Govt

Continued from P1

"As against Rs 90,000 crore of liquidity infusion package announced by the government, Rs 70,590 crore worth of loans have been sanctioned and Rs 24,742 crore has already been disbursed/released till September 16, 2020," said Union Power Minister R K Singh in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The government is infusing liquidity in the power sector through Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd to enable the sector to maintain power supplies as cash flows had plummeted during lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Under this intervention, the

REC and PFC are extending special long-term transition loans of up to 10 years to discoms for liquidating their outstanding dues of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Generation (Genco) & Transmission Companies (Transcos), Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Renewable Energy (RE) generators.

In separate reply to the House, the minister stated that power demand would increase from 1,399.91 billion units (BU) in 2019-20 to 2,047.43 BU in 2026-27. He also told the House that the peak power demand would increase to 298.77GW in 2026-27 from 200.69GW in 2019-20.

Delhi cops on toes as farmers chant 'Dilli Chalo' with tractors

Continued from P1

They also claim it to be against the small farmers, something the Centre dismisses. "It will root out the middlemen," the Prime Minister recently said in a virtual address. He also said that it will help farmers go barrier-less.

But, there are many commission agents or middlemen that the Centre says will be rooted out, particularly in Punjab who are worried of being rendered jobless. A study says, there are roughly 28,000 registered commission agents, who too are concerned of going jobless. While giving a historic boost to rural India, three ordinances were promulgated on June 5, 2020 for the benefit of farmers and to transform the agriculture sector. These ordinances were: The Farming Produce

Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 to promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade in agriculture produce; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 to engage with processors, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters; and Amendment to the Essential Commodities Act to liberalise regulatory environment for farmers.

The first two are being passed as Bills in both Houses of Parliament. MSP has been one of the concerns of many farmers, irrespective of the Centre's assurance. Many feel farmers will either cease to get the benefit of it or private players may exploit them.

CENTRE MAKING MOCKERY OF DEMOCRACY: TRS

Continued from P1

He said the BJP knows that it does not have majority in Rajya Sabha and yet it bulldozed by getting the bill passed by voice vote. He said they would join other parties which have given notice for no confidence on the Deputy Chairman. The farm bills, Keshav Rao, said was like killing the goose that lays golden eggs.



Anticipate a trend and benefit from it. Traders should go against human nature
-Rakesh Jhunjunwala



HANS INVEST

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THE HANS INDIA
DELHI MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020



IN SHORT

Angel Broking's IPO opens on Sep 22

Retail broking house Angel Broking Ltd will open its initial public offering (IPO) of equity shares on September 22, 2020. The offer will close on September 24, 2020. The price band of the offer has been fixed at Rs 305 to Rs 306 per equity share. The company plans to raise Rs 600 crore through the offering of equity shares. The Equity Shares offered in the offer are proposed to be listed at both BSE and NSE. For the purpose of the offer, NSE is the designated stock exchange. "The initial public offering consists of the equity shares of the company aggregating up to Rs 6,000 million (600 crore) comprises of a fresh issue company aggregating up to Rs 3,000 (300 crore) and an offer for sale aggregating up to Rs 3,000 million (300 crore)," a company statement said. ICI Securities Limited, Edelweiss Financial Services Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the book running lead managers to the offer. The offer for sale would consist of Rs 18.33 crore and up to Rs 4.5 crore worth of shares by the promoters Ashok D. Thakkar and Sunita A. Magnani, and up to Rs 120 crore worth of shares by the investor IFC and up to Rs 157.16 crore of shares by the individual shareholders respectively. Bids can be made for a minimum of 49 Equity Shares and in multiples of 49 Equity Shares thereafter.

Bank of India to raise Rs 8,000 cr

Bank of India (BoI) has received its shareholders approval to raise up to Rs 8,000 crore through several modes including equity shares. The shareholders gave the approval in its Extraordinary General Meeting on Saturday, the bank said in a regulatory filing. It said that they gave the "approval to raise fresh capital up to an amount of Rs 8,000 crore by way of equity shares/tier-I/tier-II bonds by way of public issue or right issue or preferential issue or QIP or private placement or any other permitted mode at an appropriate time whether at a discount or premium to the market price." Several public and private sector banks are raising capital to strengthen their buffer amid the pandemic.

Forex reserves down by \$353 mn

After touching a life-time high in the previous week, India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves declined by \$353 million to \$541.660 billion in the week ended September 11, according to the Reserve Bank data. In the previous week ended September 4, the reserves had increased by \$582 million to a record high of \$542.013 billion. During the reporting week, the fall in reserves was due to a decline in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves. FCAs decreased by \$841 million to \$497.521 billion in the reporting week, the data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. The gold reserves rose by \$499 million in the reporting week to \$38.02 billion.

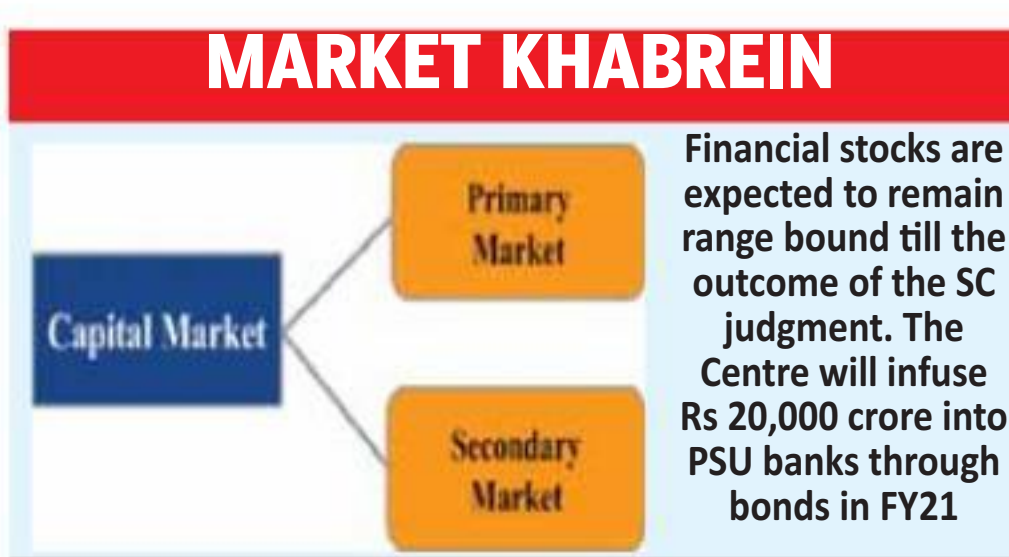
MAJOR FOCUS ON PRIMARY MKT

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

On the back of lingering India-China border issue, rising Covid-19 cases and mixed global cues, markets were in consolidation mode during the week ended. Benchmark indices were nearly unmoved with the BSE Sensex closing just 8.73 points lower at 38,845.82 and the Nifty gained marginally 40.50 points at 11,504.95. True to prediction in this column, broader market continued to outperform the benchmark.

The faster pace of retracement in Nifty Mid-cap and Small-cap indices, supported by improvement in market breadth, as currently 72 per cent constituents of Nifty Mid-cap and Small-cap indices have been sustaining above their 200 days SMA compared to past two weeks reading of 65 per cent, signifies rejuvenating price structure that bodes well for durability of ongoing up move. Any significant correction or temporary breather from here on should not be construed as negative, but should be capitalized on to accumulate quality Mid-cap and Small-caps. RBI Governor's statement that response to Covid-19 had been to prioritize the stabilization of the economy and support a quick recovery, but policies for the medium term after the crisis would be equally important with concentration on five focus areas, including prioritizing human capital, increasing productivity, and trying to get into the global supply chain.

The government's borrowing programme, despite its large size of Rs 12 trillion, was being done at a decade-low level of rates. The borrowing is being done at around six per cent, thanks to the liquidity measures undertaken by the cen-



tral bank. CPI Inflation came in at 6.69 per cent in August, marginally lower compared to the revised 6.73 per cent (earlier projected at 6.93 per cent) in the previous month. The combined food price inflation (CFPI) for August was at 9.05 per cent against 9.27 per cent in July primarily driven lower by cereals and products, while vegetables inflation at 11.4 per cent remained high. Despite strong protests from several opposition parties, the government managed to pass the three agriculture reforms Bills aimed at a

free market economy thereby enabling farmers to sell their produce anywhere in India without the help of intermediaries, for which three Ordinances were issued earlier in the agriculture sector. Near-term direction of the markets will be dictated by F&O settlement, geo political issues, macroeconomic data and global cues. After blockbuster listing of Happiest minds, the major activity is expected to be in primary market than secondary market, in the coming week, as on the first day of week itself, two companies namely -

Ganesh Benzoplast Limited is engaged in the manufacture, export and import of a range of specialty chemicals, food preservatives and industrial lubricants. The company also provides conditioned storage facilities for bulk liquids and chemicals at various ports in India. Its segments include Chemical Division and Liquid Storage Terminal (LST) Division. Its LST division provides storage tanks which are leased on rent for storing liquid chemicals, oil products, petrochemicals, molasses and edible oils, among others. Its products and services include storage facilities and cargo handling, and man-

ufacturing of organic and inorganic chemicals. Buy for medium term target price of Rs100. Star Cement Ltd is engaged in cement manufacturing in north east India. The company's product range includes clinker and cement. Clinker is sold in domestic market as well as exported to Nepal and Bhutan. Cement offering includes Star Cement Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC), Star Cement Portland slag cement (PSC), Star Anti Rust Cement (ARC) and Star Cement ordinary Portland ce-

Computer Age Management Services (CAMS) and Chemcon Specialty Chemicals will open their public issues for subscription, with a price band of Rs 1,229-1,230 per share and Rs 305-306 per share respectively.

Quote of the week: "Based on my own personal experience - both as an investor in recent years and an expert witness in years past - rarely do more than three or four variables really count. Everything else is noise." - Martin Whitman

F&O/ SECTOR WATCH

Ahead of settlement week derivative segment witnessed brisk trading in both stock futures and indices. The market may witness heightened volatility due to the expiry of September Futures & Options contracts and roll over of positions to next month. Volatility is expected to be high this week due to rollovers, while major trigger in stocks would be based on the quantum of rollovers. Nifty Calls open in-

terest at 11,600 strike and Puts open interest at 11,400 strike define the short term range of Nifty. Call writing was seen at 12,000 strike, followed by 11,800 and 11,600 strikes, while Put writing was seen at 11,200 strike, followed by 10,900-11,500 strikes. Overall all data points of Nifty indicate 11,500 could be a crucial level to watch out for in coming week. Nifty is expected to face strong resistance at 11600. Punters suggest fresh buying only if Nifty moves above 11600 with volumes. Pharma stocks were the flavor of the week. Dr Reddy, Divi Labs, Cipla, Lupin and others posted healthy gains. Three companies are in the advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and four are in the advanced pre-clinical development stage for Corona vaccine. Use declines to add positions in the sector. Financial stocks are expected to remain range bound till the outcome of the SC judgment. The Centre will infuse Rs 20,000 crore in PSU banks through bonds in FY21. Contrarians expect the Bank Nifty (which carries 33% weightage in the benchmark index Nifty) to hold the key support threshold of 21800-2200 range as it is 80% retracement of August rally (21000-25230), placed at 21900, and pose a decent pullback which will drive Nifty towards 11800 in coming weeks. Firm trend in prices and improvement in sales spells good times for cement stocks in coming quarters. Accumulate Ambuja Cement, ACC and Ultratech. Stock futures looking good are ACC, Bata India, Bharti Airtel, Cholamandalam, Glenmark, Infosys NTPC, and Wipro.

(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)

It's wise to stay invested for long-term



Equity investing is probably about being long, always. Perhaps what else is an option when you buy a business whose deliverables are of the future and though the decision to get in was partly due to the past performance, but the majority of the reasons being its prospects of the future and its abilities to meander through the maze. So, investing in equities tends to be 'long' (stay invested for long).

Once we accept this logic, it becomes easy for us to build expectations on our investment. Though, for any business the vagaries include much beyond their control like that of the government policies, regulations, macro-economic and political changes. What any business have control is to have a vision, to execute that vision and also the adaptiveness to accommodate that vision in the changing environment. These businesses not only just survive but thrive over periods of time.

So, while it's important for the investor to do right research in identifying a particular business and its stock, it's equally important for one to stay invested in these stocks. As I mentioned about the uncontrol-

lable variables, they could at times act as an impediment or advantage to a business. This puts the businesses to undergo cycles like that of the economy. While at certain points of an economy naturally benefits business, there could other times, which could be difficult for a particular business. Hence, one has to get through these bad phases to make good returns in the long run.

On top of this, equity markets cycles like those of the business/economic cycles play out. This causes the overall good or bad mood translating to the bull or bear market respectively. And these cycles may not coincide with the earlier cycles I mentioned and so pose a gap in the value for the price being quoted. Based on the initial premise I've stated, equity markets are always forward looking. That's the reason one finds they extrapolate a situation and react accordingly. If a bad news strikes, markets respond with reducing their exposures leading to a fall as the market participants begin to extrapolate the negative data into their future.

Same is the case of good news, but as these assumptions get factored, things start to settle and rationality prevails, albeit slowly. That's why they say that no news is bad news as nothing lasts forever. This is where one has to remain consistent towards their investment objective and act accordingly. Peter Lynch, the famous fund manager once said that, "Far more money has been lost by investors trying to anticipate corrections, than lost in

Investors are advised to stay invested across cycles to make money. It's also better to make reallocation during different phases so as to gain more during the uptrend. Partly, this also makes average the cost, normalize the risk and generate higher returns



the corrections themselves." He was highlighting the perils of timing the market.

For instance, if one had the prior knowledge of the coming pandemic and the subsequent fall in the market, at best one would've shorted the market, but could any predict the complete reversal in such a short period. And if one were to have completely pulled out of the markets after or at such an enormous fall, was it possible for anyone to reenter in entirety to take advantage of the upward move. Hence, the answer remains in staying invested in the market, though a bit of realignment would be good for the portfolio. As Einstein famously quoted as "compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He, who understands it, earns it. He, who doesn't, pays it". All of us aspire for better things in life and so good returns out of our investments. And the first question we ask about any investment veers into rate of return but unfortunately when calculating the com-

pound return earned, it's not the return (depicted as r) but the number of years (time period) which is placed at the exponential. That means higher returns alone may not end up with better outcome, but even smaller consistent returns for a long period of time helps.

Also, when timing the market, one is speculating about what the future event turns out to be and the future is unpredictable. It's said that in the short run the stock market is a slot machine, but in the long-run, the stock market is a weighing machine. It's ideal to stick to long-term investment and stay invested across cycles to make money. It's also advised to make reallocation during different phases so as to gain more during the uptrend. Partly this also makes average the cost, normalize the risk and generate higher returns.

(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)

Investors Need To Be Cautious As Mkt Under Pressure

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

The sea-saw moments during the last week resulted in a flat closing. With two sharp sell-off spells from the highs, the benchmark indices failed to move higher. The Nifty finally closed with 40.50 points or 0.35 per cent during the last week. The BSE Sensex lost 0.2 per cent. The out-performance of broader indices continued. The Nifty Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 indices advanced by 3.8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. On the sectoral front, pharma and IT indices gained by most with 8.9 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively. The Financial services index and PSU Bank indices fell by 4.5 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively. Overall market breadth is slightly negative. Barring one day, the FIIs continue to buy, and the DIIs sold the equities last week.

The Nifty took support 20DMA for at least three times during the last week. It filled the gap of September 4. On the weekly chart, it formed a small body candle. The net distribution days at the end of the week are six, as one added and one is expired. The uptrend since March low is now under pressure as the momentum is waning. Even though the Nifty has not made any lower since then, the high is not



so convincing. Last Wednesday's high is important for the ongoing trend. Around 11,620 levels, the Nifty faced the resistance several times in the recent past. The 20DMA is almost flattened, is an indication of consolidation mode and the sideways action to continue. The Nifty is also forming a pattern similar to head to shoulder after bottom formation on August 3. In any case, if Nifty fails to move above 11620-11690 range, we expect a dip toward 50DMA at 11,281. There are several supports at around this level. There trend line support around 11,380 and gap support on September 10 also placed. As the distribution day's count is on the higher side, fall below 50DMA can be categorised as a downtrend. The Kaufman's Adaptive MA's support is placed at 11387. This KAMA is flattened from a rising staircase, and any turn will signal the reversal from the current level. The 30EMA support is at 11377. These many sup-

ports must hold for a continuation of the uptrend. In any case, bulls able to take the Nifty above 11618 and 11690 resistance zone, then the uptrend will resume. The Daryl Guppy's MMA setup indicates, the current is in danger at the set of short term averages are flattened and some of them are turned down too. For the first time RoC has reached below the zero line, and Martin Pring's KST shows the index. The RSI is failed to sustain at 60 levels and forming another downward channel. The divergences are still there in most of the indicators.

In a nutshell, the 11,620-11690 on the top and 11440 - 11370 zone will act as a support and resistance for the next week. In case of breaching 11281- 11185 zone is a sign of trend reversal and will enter into a downtrend. As the market trend is under pressure, it is better to be with a cautious approach for now. Focus on the stock with strong fundamentals and the good technical structure to build the portfolios.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)

Marginal consolidation likely

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

The highest Open Interest (OI) at 12,000CE and 11,500PE is indicating trading range for the week ahead (September 21-25, 2020). Considering the options data, derivatives analysts forecast marginal consolidation within 11,500-12,000 points range.

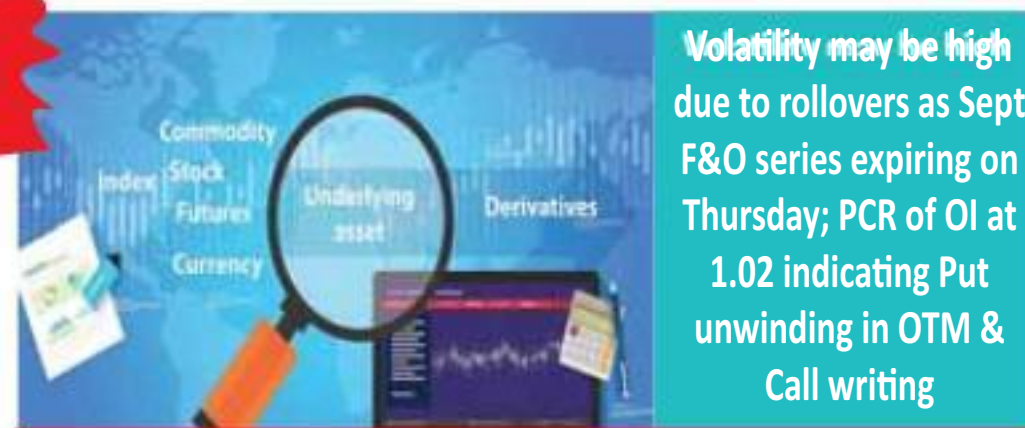
According to ICI Direct.com, the NSE Nifty after a long time recorded above average additions in At The Money (ATM) Straddle (11,500 Call & Put) for the main expiry week. The combined premium for this straddle is near Rs200 whereas IVs continued to decline and slipped below 20 levels last week. Analysts feel the index would consolidate for a few sessions with strong support for the week pegged at 11,300.

The 12,000 strike, which also

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

recorded maximum Call OI build-up of 9.77 lakh contracts, has highest Call OI of 43.90 lakh contracts followed by 11600 strike with 34.47 lakh contracts, 11800 strike with 33.25 lakh contracts and 11500 strike with 32.46 lakh contracts. Further, 11,800/11,600/11,650 strikes registered reasonable Call OI addition.

The 11,500 strike has highest Put OI of 33.83 lakh contracts followed by 11,000 strike with 32.67 lakh contracts, 11400 strike with 24.65 lakh contracts, 11200 strike with 23.76 lakh contracts and 11,300 strike with 22.89 lakh contracts. 11,250 strike witnessed maximum Put OI build-up of 4.29



lakh contracts, while 11,200/11,550/11,450/10,900 strikes witnessed significant addition of Put OI.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "Nifty struggled to breach 11,600 mark. Pharma along with IT counter rallied the most. From derivatives front, tug of war continued between Call writers at 11,600 strike and Put writers at 11,500 strike."

With undercurrent positive bias, the NSE Nifty last week managed to test 11,600 level. However, Nifty couldn't hold on at this level due to profit booking in a few heavyweights at higher levels. Reliance Industries (RIL) remained muted whereas selling was seen in metals, FMCG, HDFC Ltd and banking stocks. IT, auto and pharma continued to move up and this provided a cushion to the index at lower levels. For the week ended

September 18, 2020, BSE Sensex ended flat 8.73 points or 0.022 per cent lower and closed at 38,845.82 points from the previous close of 38,854.55 points. Similarly, NSE Nifty inched up by 40.53 points or 0.35 per cent, to end the week at 11,504.95 points as against last week's 11,464.45 level. Bisht forecasts: "For coming week, it is expected that market will continue to remain volatile once again with banking index continues to feel pressure. Nifty is expected to struggle to surpass 11,600 marks. Bulls may make a comeback only if Nifty move beyond 11,600 mark next week."

Volatility is expected to be high this week due to rollovers while major trigger in stocks would be based on the quantum of rollover. However, the overall bias for the index remains positive until it

holds 11300. We feel pharma, IT, select metals and capital goods would do well in this consolidation.

"The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 14.98 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 15.64 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 20.04 per cent. Put-Call ratio of OI for the week closed at 1.02 slightly down from the previous week indicating Put unwinding in OTM and Call writing," remarked Bisht.

In F&O space, FII sold Rs2,299-crore worth index futures and to the tune of Rs2,527 cr in the stock futures segment. However, FIIs bought Rs4,394 crore in index options during the week.

Bank Nifty

Shedding 448.9 points or 1.99 per cent, Bank Nifty closed at 22,031.05 points as against the previous week's closing of 22,479.95 points. A sharp sell-off on Friday pulled the Bank Nifty below 22,000 level. However, at

the fag-end, on the back of OTM Put writing, the index managed to close well above 22,000 along with a rise in premium over spot.

"Once again weakness in banking stocks continued to weigh on Indian markets as Bank Nifty settled the week with loss of more than 1.50 per cent. Among sectors Private Bank, along with PSU banks and financial services suffered losses," added Bisht.

IVs continued to remain choppy despite sharp whipsaws last week whereas major OI concentration for the week was seen at 22,000 Put strike, which is very important for the Bank Nifty. Analysts forecast a sell-off only if the index manages to close below 22,000.

NSE's banking index in the current consolidation phase remained a laggard as it failed to find any sustainable momentum despite most private banks being near their support and highest Put base for the September expiry at 22,000 levels.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF 12-YEAR-OLD SUMEDHA

Cong holds KTR, Talasani, Bonthu responsible

Senior Congress leader and AICC spokesperson Dasoju Shraavan demands Rs 1 crore ex-gratia to Sumedha's family

Hyderabad: Senior Congress leader and AICC spokesperson Dasoju Shraavan came down heavily on Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao saying that the death of 12-year-old Sumedha was not an accident, but a murder by incompetent TRS government. Stressing that it was the Great Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC's) utter negligence which took away the life of a young girl, Dasoju Shraavan demanded that a murder case be booked against Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao, GHMC Mayor Bonthu Rammohan and local Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

The TPCC delegation led by Dasoju Shraavan visited Sumedha's family at Deendayal Nagar in Malkajgiri on Sunday. After offering condolences to the bereaved parents Sukanya and Abhijeet, Congress leaders toured the area, took stock of the open nalas and inquired about the events leading to Sumedha's death.

"It is extremely sad to know that a young girl with a bright future lost her life by falling into an open nala due to the negligence of GHMC. Is it not the minimum duty of the GHMC to cover nalas or place fencing around open nalas? What is the GHMC Mayor doing? Where is the GHMC Commissioner? Isn't this visible to Municipal Administration Minister K T Rama Rao, who boasts that the TRS government has spent Rs 60,000 crore for Hy-



Congress leaders Dasoju Shraavan, Md Feroz Khan, Anil Kumar Yadav and N Sridhar calling on the family of 12-year-old girl K Sumedha who died after falling into a drainage canal recently, in Hyderabad on Sunday

derabad's development? Where did all that money go? The death of Sumedha is not an accident but murder by reckless TRS government and the GHMC. Case should be booked against Rama Rao, Bonthu Rammohan and Talasani Srinivas Yadav," said Dasoju Shraavan, speaking after meeting Sumedha's parents.

Speaking on the occasion, Dasoju Shraavan lambasted Animal Husbandry Minister, hailing from Greater Hyderabad region, Talasani Srinivas Yadav for making insensitive comments. "Speaking after Sumedha's death Talasani Srinivas Yadav commented "will not water overflow if rain comes?" Even a small kid

knows that water overflows during the rainy season. We do not need a Minister to say this. This is nothing but arrogance of power. Talasani has lost his mind. Instead of making insensitive comments and causing further pain to bereaved parents, he should focus on improving basic amenities in the Greater Hyderabad area as a local Minister," said Shraavan.

"Hyderabad is turning into a lake even after ten minutes of rain. People are unable to come out in the rainy season. People are losing lives by falling in open nalas, manholes. Overflowing nalas, flooding of residential areas and roads, traffic congestion

have become regular features. Moreover, the property tax and other charges collected in GHMC are higher than other cities. Where is all this money going? Is it spent on developing Hyderabad or being usurped by TRS leaders?" questioned Dasoju Shraavan. Holding the TRS government and the GHMC responsible for Sumedha's death, Shraavan demanded Rs 1 crore ex-gratia for her family.

TPCC leader and Hyderabad Parliament segment in-charge Feroz Khan, Youth Congress President Anil Yadav, Malkajgiri Congress in-charge N Sridhar and others accompanied Dr Dasoju Shraavan on the occasion.

Govt claim of containing Covid-19 by Sept end falls flat

Hyderabad: The Health Department's prediction last month to contain the virus in GHMC and all districts by the end of September seems to have fallen flat as there is no dip in the number of cases that are in the range of 2,000 plus for the past few weeks.

Districts including Ranga Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Khammam, Suryapet, Nizamabad, Warangal Urban, Mancherla, Jagtial etc have been regularly reporting 100 cases per day for last two months and there looks to be no respite still.

Of the 2,173 cases reported until Saturday evening, GHMC reported 322 cases which is nearly 15 percent, while the rest of the districts contributed 85 percent of the daily tally.

Ranga Reddy and Medchal Malkajgiri reported 182 and 146 cases respectively. Karimnagar followed with 132 new cases, Nalgonda (124), Siddipet (109), Khammam and Warangal Urban (90 cases each), Nizamabad and Mahabubabad (78 cases each).

The overall cases count rose to 1.71 lakh cases with recovered figure nearly at 1.40 lakh. The deceased count stood at 1033. Number of active cases rose to 30,573 with over 24k under home isolation. Meanwhile, the tests tally in Telangana is nearing 25 lakhs.

Archaka union leader Bhanumurthy dead

Hyderabad: Endowments Minister A Indrakaran Reddy expressed shock on the sudden demise of Telangana Archaka Association president Gangu Bhanumurthy. The Minister expressed condolences to the family members of Gangu Bhanumurthy. He recalled the services of Bhanumurthy on the welfare of the employees and archakas.



Will not let Pharma City come up on farmlands: Mallu

The CLP leader accuses the TRS government of selling farmers' lands to corporates under the guise of establishing Pharma City

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Overwhelmed by the party support following 2BHK challenge episode and his 10-day State tour to government hospitals treating Covid patients, the CLP leader, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, has thrown down the gauntlet to Telangana Rashtra Samithi during his visit to the proposed site of Pharma city in Yacharam, under Ranga Reddy district on Sunday.

During his meeting with farmers of Kurmidla village in Yacharam where the government has proposed to come up with the Pharma city, Mallu said that his party would not keep quiet if 20,000 acres of land belonging to farmers was handed over to corporate companies.

"K Chandrashekar Rao has turned into a broker and distributing lands amongst corporates. The land which was distributed to farmers by Indira Gandhi is being snatched away. A total of 20,000 acres including 8,000 acres given by Indira government and another

12,000 acres belonging to farmers is being bestowed to Pharma city. We shall not keep quiet if this happens," he said to the applause of the farmers present at the meeting.

The CLP leader, who was accompanied by former minister and MLC T Jeevan Reddy, MLA Seethakka, former MLA M Kodanda Reddy and other leaders, cautioned the TRS government from going ahead with the proposal by undermining the prospects of farmers.

While emphasising the impact on the soil's fertility and pollution due to pharma companies, he pointed out that hundreds of kilometers would get polluted once the Pharma city comes into existence.

"Congress party accorded Telangana for helping unemployed, poor and landless. But, today they are not enjoying the fruits of change due to TRS. Now the Congress leadership has decided to take strong stance on the issue and shall not keep quiet," he added.

CCMB team sees decrease in Covid-19 deaths

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad have analysed more than 2,000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes from India available in the public domain to understand various strains in circulation.

Earlier in June, the team had revealed the presence of a distinct virus population among Indians. This was named the clade I/A3i and is recognised by the presence of four specific variations in their genetic makeup (genomes). At that time, 41% of all Indian SARS-CoV-2 genomes belonged to this clade.

The current analysis showed that the proportion of the A3i clade dropped to 18%. "One of the 4 distinct variations that define the A3i clade is present in a key viral enzyme called RDRP, involved in making new copies of the viral RNA. This variant was predicted to be deleterious or bad for the virus, and if the prediction is indeed cor-

A study says no clade at present is associated with a more severe form of Covid-19 or an increased risk of death in India

rect, we expected A3i clade to slowly disappear with time, and other clades without this variation will prevail. This is exactly what we see now," said Dr Divya Tej Sowpati, Scientist at CCMB, who is leading this study here.

The decrease in the proportion of A3i clade is accompanied by an increase of the A2a clade, also referred to as the G clade or the 20A/B/C clades in other nomenclatures. Viruses of the A2a or the G clade carry the D614G mutation in their spike protein which is shown to be associated with an increased infectivity. At present 70%

of all Indian as well as global SARS-CoV-2 genomes fall into this clade.

"As expected for a strain which is more infectious, A2a clade quickly became the dominant clade in India just like everywhere else. There is no evidence to state that this mutation is clinically a more difficult one. The similarity in viral genome globally should be considered a positive news, because a vaccine or a drug targeting this mutation will work with the same effectiveness all over the world," says Dr Rakesh K Mishra, Director, CCMB and a co-author of the study.

It is, however, important to note that no clade at present has been conclusively shown to be associated with a more severe form of Covid-19, or an increased risk of death. The findings of the study done with scientists from CSIR-Institute of Integrative Biology as collaborators, are now peer-reviewed and published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases published by the Oxford University Press.

Cops vow to purge city of banned tobacco products

CHAND AHMED

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police are on a mission to curb illegal supply of banned tobacco products and foreign cigarettes as the sale of these substances is growing in the city. Recent raids conducted by the task force proved the point that the Police Department does not intend to go soft on smugglers and sellers of tobacco products and foreign cigarettes. According to a top official from the task force who wished to remain anonymous, it has been noted that the racket of foreign cigarettes is growing at a fast pace in the city because the sellers have

changed their modus operandi.

He said, "Earlier, pan shop owners and kirana shop owners used to sell foreign cigarettes and tobacco products directly but as the raids kept on increasing, they have changed their modus operandi completely. The sellers who knew their regular customers made WhatsApp groups with their regular customers where they posted information and updated places of meeting. After posting all these details, the seller and customer met at the place and the sale was done. The seller gets the products from smugglers from different parts of the country."

"Apart from foreign cigarettes,

banned tobacco products are being sold in similar fashion and it is really a matter of concern to the authorities because most of the victims are youngsters who are getting addicted to such drugs," stated the officer.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar on Sunday expressed his disappointment over the fact that the sale of banned drugs is increasing in the city and with the recent action of the task force against the peddlers, it proves that society is being damaged by the consumption of such banned drugs. He said, "Such items are nothing but slow poison, the society should help the Police Department in eradicat-

ing such social vices from the city and if anyone comes across such persons who are either indulged in consuming or selling of the banned drugs, then they shall immediately report it to their nearest police station of dial 100 or can call at 9490616555."

The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) is the principal comprehensive law governing tobacco control in India. The Act was passed before India became a party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Floating leg in open drain creates panic

Hyderabad: In a shocking incident, a woman's leg was found floating on top of an open drainage in Champapet on Sunday. According to sources, the leg was found floating in a nala at Reddy Colony under Saidabad police station limits. The locals who saw the limb floating alerted the police. Immediately, the police along with the clues team and dog squad visited the spot and began investigation. Preliminary investigations revealed that the leg belonged to a woman. However, her identity is yet to be established. Police suspect that either the woman might have fallen into the drainage through a manhole and her leg got amputated or the woman might have fallen elsewhere and her leg might have flown to this spot due to the bore of water, or the woman could have been murdered and her body was chopped off and the parts were thrown at different places.

However, nothing has been confirmed yet. The cops who are probing the case are analysing the CCTV footages of the entire area. The surrounding police stations have also been alerted to check for any missing woman complaints.

Constable held for murdering brother-in-law

Hyderabad: The Rajendra Nagar police on Sunday arrested a police constable, Shaukat, working at Raidurgam police station, for murdering his brother-in-law Mohammed with the help of two contract killers, Mahender and Rajesh. According to police, Shaukat, resident of Hasan Nagar, had a family dispute with his brother-in-law, due to which he bore a grudge against him, and decided to eliminate him with the help of contract killers. The accused then contacted Mahender and Rajesh and agreed to pay an amount of Rs 5 lakh

for committing the offence. He also made an advance payment of Rs 70,000 and the remaining was to be paid after committing the murder, said the police.

However, with the help of intelligence inputs, the police received information that the murder was committed by Shaukat. He was then immediately detained for questioning. While questioning, he confessed to his crime. After his confession, the other two killers were also detained, said Inspector, G Suresh.

BJP slams KCR for calling agri Bills as sugar-coated pills

Party State chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar says the Chief Minister raising unnecessary apprehensions among the farmers regarding the bills and confusing them

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar termed the remarks made by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on the Centre's agriculture reform bills as baseless. It can be recalled that the TRS president, making it clear that his party will oppose the agriculture reform bills in the Parliament, has called them as sugar-coated pills detrimental to the farmers' welfare.

Taking exception to these remarks, the BJP chief reiterated that the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was always committed to the welfare of farmers.

In a letter to K Chan-

drashekar Rao, Sanjay stated that CM's remarks on the said bills were baseless and added it was not good on the part of K Chandrashekar Rao and his party to raise unnecessary apprehensions in the minds of Telangana farmers and confuse them.

Reminding the rotting paddy stocks at the IKP centres and loss to horticulture farmers during the lockdown period, the Karimnagar MP stated that the unholy alliance between the middlemen and the political parties appointed market committee chairpersons was leaving farmers in losses with most of them not even getting the Minimum Support Price.

Informing that the Centre was going to set up about

22,000 new markets under Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Sanjay said about 1,000 markets were going to come up in Telangana. Wouldn't the new markets going to be established with the Central funding in the State help the farmers in Telangana? he asked the Chief Minister, adding that whether the Chief Ministers committee and its recommendations were not part of drafting the agriculture reform bills?

Meanwhile, State BJP Kisan Morcha president Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy welcomed the passage of agriculture bills in the Parliament. He said the TRS chief was coming up with baseless apprehensions with regard to bills. He reminded how the market committee and the

middlemen had fixed low prices at the Khammam Chilli Market Yard. When the farmers asked for the reason for slashing prices, they were handcuffed and sent them behind the bars, he recalled.

In a separate statement, party chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao, welcoming the passage of bills in Parliament, hoped that the bills would pave way for making agriculture profitable to farmers.

He called the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, as landmark bills that have the potential to transform the agricultural sector profitable to small and marginal farmers.

New education policy will focus on character building, asserts HP Guv

Chairman of VAAICE foundation K Dileep Kumar holds virtual round-table conference on Sunday inaugurated by Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The draft committee member of New Education Policy, Dr RS Kureel asserted that the committee after considering and debating different aspects has come with the outcome.

During a round table conference organised by K Dileep Kumar, chairman of VAAICE foundation on Sunday, Kureel responding to the apprehensions raised by the speakers said that the government has incorporated the new policy not only to raise the standards of the universities towards achieving global rankings, but also to ensure the country's education and inculcate the knowledge of the indigenous achievements. "This new policy is best footed for the country and no one is neglected. With the incorporation of special zones, there remained flexibil-

ity for SC, ST and minorities," he added.

Earlier during the day, Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya inaugurated the discussions online through Zoom app. He felt that the new education policy will focus on character building, apart from imparting knowledge. "We hope that like Nalanda University, India will once again have a global reach through education and even foreigners will compete to get learning experience here," he asserted.

Amongst other speakers were Professor G Haragopal, K Nageshwar, Jyotsna (TTDP women's wing president), Palle Ravi Kumar (Telangana Journalists forum president), Vimalakka social activist, Ramesh Reddy, former principal of Osmania Engineering college put forth their opinions over the issue. Haragopal who spoke via Zoom observed that online ed-

ucation which is one of the important features would not be able to reach its goals, as most of the poor do not have access to technology. He also expressed objection to Central authority over decisions like curriculum as it would undermine plurality and diversity of country.

Nageshwar also echoed a similar opinion and said that open or distance learning and online model would not be able to substitute formal education.

Terming this new policy influenced by Capitalism, with the underpinning of saffronisation, Vimalakka described it as an attempt to distance the privileged from the weaker sections. Ravi Kumar lamented that the policy was being adopted without wider public debate. "Had it been kept for public discussion before finalising, it would have been more effective," he felt.

IPL 2020

Kohli's RCB to face Warner's SunRisers

Dubai (IANS/GloFans): After finishing fourth in the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL), SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) will start their present campaign with a game against the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), who are looking for their maiden title, at the iconic Dubai International Cricket stadium here on Monday.

While SRH have clinched the trophy once in 2016, besides the 2009 triumph in their earlier avatar as Deccan Chargers, the Virat Kohli-led RCB are yet to lay their hands on the coveted trophy.

For this year's edition of the lucrative league, the David Warner-led SRH have made a few changes in their squad. The 'Orange Army' will miss the services of ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was released by the franchise after being banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for failing to report the approach of bookies elsewhere.

With skipper Warner and Jonny Bairstow, the SRH are considered to have one of the best opening pairs and if the duo gets going, the Hyderabad franchise will pose a big threat for their opponents.

Warner is also the leading run scorer for SRH after accumulating 3,271 runs from 71 games, averaging 55.44. Bairstow, who joined SRH last year, also impressed everyone after gathering 445 runs from 10 games at a decent average of 55.62.

The pace attack will be led by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who hasn't played any professional game



Kohli-Warner

since December 2019. The 30-year-old has 109 wickets from 86 games and is the leading wicket-taker for SRH. Bhuvneshwar, however, will need support from Khaleel Ahmed, Sandeep Sharma, Basil Thampi and Siddarth Kaul.

If SRH want to replicate their 2016 show, a lot will depend on how their spinners perform in the low and slow tracks in the UAE.

The spin attack will be led by Afghanistan leggie Rashid Khan and will be supported by his compatriot Mohammad Nabi, who had a decent outing in he just

TODAY'S FIXTURE
Sunrisers Hyderabad Vs Royal Challengers Bangalore at 7.30pm

concluded Caribbean Premier League. Nabi picked 12 wickets from as many games with an economy rate of 5.10. Other than these two, SRH also have left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem in their ranks and the Jharkhand spinner is known to be very accurate with his line and length.

Warner's side also has spin-bowling all-rounders in Fabian Allen, Sanjay Yadav, Abdul Samad, and Abhishek Sharma.

On the other hand, RCB is one of the three teams in the league who are yet to win the trophy.

Kohli-led RCB's biggest strength has been their batting and the skipper is undoubtedly, one of the best in business when it comes to white-ball cricket. The team management along with Kohli will hope that he replicates the form he had shown in the 2016 edition where he had scored four centuries.

Alongside Kohli, the RCB also have one of the best explosive T20 batsmen in AB de Villiers. The RCB's batting mostly revolves around Kohli and de Vil-

SQUADS:

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner (Captain), Abhishek Sharma, Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Billy Stanlake, Jonny Bairstow, Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Sandeep Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shreevats Goswami, Siddarth Kaul, Khaleel Ahmed, T Natarajan, Vijay Shankar, Wriddhiman Saha, Virat Singh, Priyam Garg, Mitchell Marsh, Sandeep Bavanaka, Fabian Allen, Abdul Samad, Sanjay Yadav

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli (Captain), Parthiv Patel, AB de Villiers, Chris Morris, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shivam Dubey, Aaron Finch, Umesh Yadav, Adam Zampa, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mohammed Siraj, Dale Steyn, Moeen Ali, Pawan Negi, Gurkeerat Mann Singh, Isuru Udana, Devdutt Padikkal, Shahbaz Ahamad, Joshua Philippe, Pavan Deshpande

liers and if the duo fires, things will be easier for the team. Moreover, they both have also shown over the past how to be a livewire in the ground when it comes to fielding.

Also with the inclusion of Aaron Finch, the RCB's top-order looks quite effective.

Youngster Devdutt Padikkal is likely to open the innings with Finch while Joshua Philippe is the other opening option for the RCB.

Many positives but plenty of areas to improve: Dhoni



Ambati Rayudu-Dhoni

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was all smiles after his team beat defending champions Mumbai Indians by five wickets in the first match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Saturday.

CSK were clinical with both bat and ball but Dhoni feels that there are still plenty of areas to improve.

"You want to assess the conditions and give your best," Dhoni said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"I felt we took time to gauge how to bowl in these conditions. The MI batsmen batted well, they were able to put pressure on us. Overall, plenty of positives, but plenty of areas to improve," he said.

Dhoni said that he was relieved that no one was injured considering that most players in the team have retired from international cricket.

"Overall, a very good first game to play and no injuries -- most of us are retired. (Experience) does pay off. Especially these days with three-match series, playing 300 ODIs is a big feat. You need a good mix of youngsters and experience. What really helps youngsters in the IPL is the fact that there are lots of senior players from different countries for 60-70 days," the skipper said.

MI captain Rohit Sharma said that the difference between the two sides was the fact that none of their batsmen carried on the way Faf

We practiced in Chennai also which really helped: Rayudu

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Ambati Rayudu's 48-ball 72 helped Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeat Mumbai Indians (MI) by five wickets in the IPL season opener on Saturday. Rayudu came in when CSK were 6/2 at the start of the third over while chasing a target of 163.

He went on to post a 115-run stand for the third wicket with Faf du Plessis (58 not out).

Rayudu was declared man of the match for his innings. "We were training and it was stop start. We were also training in the summer before it got postponed," said Rayudu in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"The pitch was doing a bit with the new ball but it came a bit easier once the dew came on. We just wanted to get stuck in there and get through. We practiced in Chennai, that really helped and then in Dubai as well so, very happy," he said.

This is the first time after five attempts that CSK have managed to beat MI and it also makes eight consecutive defeats in the opening match of an IPL season for the latter. They next face Delhi Capitals in Dubai on September 24.

du Plessis and Ambati Rayudu did for CSK. The duo put up a 115-run stand for the third wicket with both scoring fifties to practically take the game away from MI.

MI were restricted to 162/9 despite being 121/3 at the start of the 15th over.

"None of our batsmen carried on for us, like du Plessis and Rayudu did for CSK. Credit to the CSK bowlers, they bowled well at the end to pull things back," he said. "We all want to start really well... it's crucial in this tournament where momentum is important. Few things for us to learn from this game, we did make a few mistakes. Hopefully we'll rectify those and come out smarter in the next game," he added.

ISL: We've to be at our best this season, says Odisha FC coach

Bhubaneswar (IANS): Odisha FC Head Coach Stuart Baxter has said that the team needs to be on its toes and disciplined this season as the Indian Super League (ISL) is set to be held behind closed doors in Goa from November.

In a live videoconference session organised by hockey High Performance Centre (HPC) in Bhubaneswar - Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), Odisha, Baxter also highlighted the importance of social responsibility of a football club and said that the club wants to inspire more and more kids in the state and help



Stuart Baxter

them in their discipline and decision-making.

"I am so pleased with the support that we have from the local government in Odisha. We have

to make sure that we inspire kids in Odisha. I want to see some sort of two-way traffic wherein players go to schools and speak some kind words to the students. Social responsibility is an important part and I want us as a team to work towards that as well.

"When we can get more kids inspired and get them into sporting projects, we can help in their discipline, their decision-making, their self-esteem," said Baxter during the session.

With the title of the live session being "Football in the new normal", Baxter talked about

the challenges ahead for the players and the support staff.

With the ISL scheduled to be played in Goa without spectators, the OFC Head Coach responded to the question on the absence of crowd.

"You have to do the job to make sure that you are independent of the crowd. I have spoken to many coaches in China and the US. Even my son is working with Kaizer Chiefs in South Africa and everybody has said that the teams that have the best support are mostly suffering. We have to be 100% focused and have discipline in the squad."

We should certainly be talking about it: Ponting on taking a knee

Dubai (IANS): Australian batting great Ricky Ponting feels there should be conversation about taking a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. "We should certainly be talking about it," said Ponting, head coach of Indian Premier League (IPL) side Delhi Capitals. Australia's current limited overs skipper Aaron Finch and his side did not take a knee during their series in England. Asked about the remarks that did not go down well with West Indian pace legend Michael Holding, Ponting said, "I think what Finch was trying to say (is) that people need more education on the issue before taking a proper stance on it or putting across a protest."

Japanese baseball, football league matches allow fans in stadiums

Tokyo (IANS): Nippon Professional Baseball and J-League matches will see crowds after more than 5,000 spectators were permitted to return to the stadiums in the wake of an easing of coronavirus restrictions in Japan.

As per a report on inside-the-games.biz, both professional leagues have pushed for the maximum limit of 5,000 spectators to be increased by the government.

A report on Kyodo News said

the baseball match between the Yokohama DeNA BayStars and Yomiuri Giants at Yokohama Stadium saw an attendance of 13,106 spectators. It was the first time that the number of spectators had been above 10,000 since the coronavirus pandemic brought the world to a standstill. As per the report, the J-League, Japan's top professional football league, saw an attendance of 11,854 in a match between Nagoya Grampus and Vissel Kobe.



Jonny Bairstow

Bairstow set to join Big Bash League outfit Melbourne Stars

London (IANS): England white-ball batsmen Jonny Bairstow and Dawid Malan are expected to be announced as new recruits to the Big Bash League over the coming days. As per a report on dailymail.co.uk, the duo are set to sign for Melbourne Stars and Hobart Hurricanes respectively with Jason Roy being in the radar of Perth Scorchers and Joe Denly understood to be interesting Melbourne Renegades. The report also says that Tom Banton and Liam Livingstone, two participants from 2019-20, are set to feature again. The report further said that inquiries were made for England stars Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler but the Test players will not be available due to the scheduled tours of Sri Lanka and India in early 2021.

I'll not enter into any conflict with Messi: Barca boss

Barcelona (IANS): FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has urged everyone to look beyond the Lionel Messi transfer saga. The star forward tried to quit the club last month.

Bartomeu also said he has no plans to step down from his position despite a motion to remove him. Messi, 33, returned to training with Ronald Koeman's new-look Barca side this month after



Josep Maria Bartomeu

failing to engineer a move away from Camp Nou this summer.

"As president, I will not enter into any conflict with Messi," Bartomeu was quoted by ESPNFC as

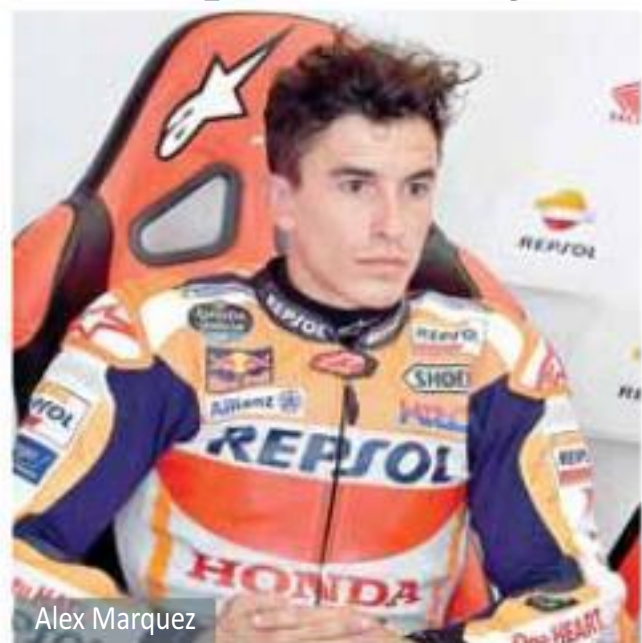
having told TV3 on Saturday. "Messi is our captain, our leader. The issue is parked. What has been said has been said. I couldn't allow to let the best player in the world go. The team needs him, he guarantees success. Things have to be discussed at home. You have to support the team and the players."

Bartomeu said Messi is excited about Koeman's project. "We have to congratulate ourselves that

Messi is still with us. He is excited about Koeman's project. The important thing is he plays for Barca, at his home. We want him to retire at the club."

On his resignation, Bartomeu said: "Right now, no-one is considering resigning. The club is not going to stop. I think everyone was surprised by the number of signatures but we respect democracy and the club's laws."

Honda rider Alex Marquez improves by a second



Alex Marquez

Rome (IANS): Alex Marquez of Repsol Honda Team has been gradually lapping up spaces in the Grand Prix Motorsport this season, challenging established race winners and setting a new personal best lap in Misano. Having already im-

proved his free practice three time by almost a full second when compared to a week ago, he followed it up with his strongest session to date on Friday. Alex roared to seventh in FP4 ending the session as the leading premier class

rookie and the leading Honda rider. A best time of 1'32.382 in the session saw Alex just 0.377s from the top while also showing strong pace throughout the session. For qualifying, the reigning Moto2 World Champion was able to improve his time down to a 1'32.198 - over a second faster than his 1'33.333 from Q1 at last week's San Marino GP. "Again, our race pace is looking quite good and in both practice sessions we did a good job. Our rhythm is good but we can't make a big step like the others with the soft tyre," Marquez said.



Rathore

Dubai (IANS): World-record sprinter and eight-time Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt picked a cricket ball as a school child, while World 100 metres champion Yohan Blake mesmerised his principal at school with his sprinting during a cricket match.

Cricket and Olympics crossed paths only once, at the Paris 1900 Games, but there are Olympic legends who have had trysts with the game which saw its cash-rich T20 tournament, the Indian Premier League (IPL), begin in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday.



Bolt and Blake

A report on olympicchannel.com highlighted the stories of champion athletes who did play cricket early on in their lives.

India's Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, who became a household name in the country in 2004 when he won a silver in the men's double trap event at the

Athens Olympics, was also exposed to multiple sports including cricket, volleyball, basketball.

Jamaican sprinter Blake was a pacer at St. Jago High School, and it was during one of the matches that the principal took a note of how quickly he ran to the wicket. Blake was consequently urged

to try his luck in sprinting.

Another Jamaican, Bolt was introduced to cricket by his father whose admired the West Indies fast bowlers Michael Holding and Courtney Walsh.

Bolt played cricket throughout his school days but his father took the decision of asking his son to step into athletics.