

Ayurveda docs allowed to perform surgeries, IMA shocked

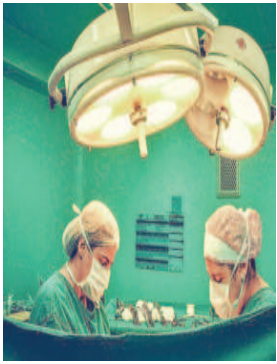
NEW DELHI

The government has issued a notification authorising post-graduate practitioners in specified streams of Ayurveda to be trained to perform surgical procedures such as excisions of benign tumours, nasal and cataract surgeries, a move which has drawn flak from the modern medicine fraternity.

The November 20 gazette notification by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), a statutory body under the AYUSH Ministry to regulate the Indian systems of medicine, listed 39 general surgery procedures and around 19 procedures involving the eye, ear, nose and throat by amending the Indian Medicine Central

Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2016. The Indian Medical Association (IMA), the largest body of modern medicine doctors, has condemned the move, describing it as "poaching the disciplines of modern medicine through back door means" and a "retrograde step of mixing the systems". Demanding that the order be withdrawn, the IMA urged the CCIM to develop their own surgical disciplines from their own ancient texts and not claim the surgical disciplines of modern medicine as their own. Attempting to clarify the notification, AYUSH Ministry Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said it does not amount to any policy deviation or any new decision.

"This notification is more of the nature of a clarification. It streamlines the existing regulation relating to post graduate education in Ayurveda with respect to the specified procedures. Further, the notification does not open up the entire field of surgery to Ayurveda practitioners and specifies a set of surgical



procedures. It outlines that not all post-graduates of Ayurveda can perform these procedures. Only those specialised in Shalya and Shalakya are allowed to perform these surgical procedures," Kotecha said.

Chairman of Board of Governors, CCIM, Vaidya Jayant Devpujari said that these surgical procedures were being performed in Ayurveda institutes for over 20 years and the notification legalises them. "The purpose of bringing out the notification is also to set boundaries by specifying the list of procedures so that practitioners restrict themselves to the set of surgical procedures as mentioned in the regulation," Devpujari said.

The AYUSH ministry also issued a clarification stating the notification is a clarification of the relevant provisions in the previously existing regulations of 2016 and that the use of modern terminology in the said notification does not amount to "mixing" of Ayurveda with conventional (Modern) medicine. "Since beginning, Shalya and Shalakya are independent Departments in Ayurveda colleges, performing such surgical procedures. While the notification of 2016 stipulated that the students shall undergo training of investigative procedures, techniques and surgical performance of procedures and management in the respective specialty, the details of these techniques, procedures and surgical performance were laid down in the syllabus of respective PG courses issued by CCIM, and not the regulation per se," the clarification stated.

THIRD WAVE IN EUROPE IN EARLY 2021, SAYS WHO

‘Govts missed building up the necessary infrastructure during the summer months, after they brought the first wave under the control’

ZURICH

A World Health Organisation (WHO) special COVID-19 envoy predicted a third wave of the pandemic in Europe in early 2021, if governments repeat what he said was a failure to do what was needed to prevent the second wave of infections.

"They missed building up the necessary infrastructure during the summer months, after they brought the first wave under the control," the WHO's David Nabarro said in an interview with Swiss newspapers.

"Now we have the second wave. If they don't build the necessary infrastructure, we'll have a third wave early next year," said Nabarro, a Briton who campaigned unsuccessfully to become the WHO director general in 2017.

Europe briefly enjoyed sinking infection rates that are now surging again: Germany and France on Saturday saw cases rise by 33,000 combined, Switzerland and Austria have thousands of cases daily, while Turkey reported a record 5,532 new infections.

Nabarro singled out Switzerland's move to allow skiing - with masks required in gondolas - as other Alpine nations like Austria have shuttered resorts. Nabarro said Switzerland could reach a "very high level of sicknesses and deaths".

"Once the infection rates sink, and they will sink, then we can be as free as we want," Nabarro was quoted as saying by the



Solothurner Zeitung. "But right now? Should ski resorts open? Under what conditions?"

Nabarro lauded the response of Asian countries like South Korea, where infections are now relatively low: "People are fully engaged, they take on behaviours that make it difficult for the virus. They keep their distance, wear masks, isolate when they're sick, wash hands and surfaces. They protect the most endangered groups." Nabarro also said Asia did not relax restrictions prematurely.

"You must wait until case numbers are low and stay low," he said. "Europe's reaction was incomplete."

Centre rushes high-level teams to HP, Punjab, UP

NEW DELHI

HIGH-LEVEL central teams have been deputed to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to support them in COVID-19 response and management.

These states have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases -- those who are hospitalised or are in home isolation under medical supervision, or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases of coronavirus infections, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday. Earlier, high-level teams were sent to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Manipur and Chhattisgarh. "These three-member teams will visit districts reporting a high number of COVID-19 cases and support the state efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures, and efficient clinical management of the positive cases."

India's COVID-19 tally rose to 90.95 lakh on Sunday with 45,209 new cases, while the recoveries surged to 85,21,617, according to the Union Health Ministry's data.

Bharti Singh, husband remanded to judicial custody till Dec 4

MUMBAI

A Mumbai court on Sunday remanded comedian Bharti Singh and husband Harsh Limbachiya, arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau following seizure of drugs from their house here, to judicial custody till December 4. The court will hear their bail pleas on Monday.

The NCB arrested Singh on Saturday and her husband early Sunday morning following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from their house in suburban Andheri. The couple was produced before a magistrates court here Sunday afternoon. "The court has remanded both the accused to judicial custody till December 4," NCB prosecutor Atul Sarpande told PTI. The couple

filed bail pleas through advocate Ayaz Khan soon after being remanded to judicial custody. The magistrate's court would hear the bail pleas on November 23.

The NCB sought Limbachiya's custody for questioning but did not seek Singh's custody and told the court that she may be sent to judicial custody.

Khan argued that there is no question of custodial interrogation as the alleged substance recovered is lesser than the 'small quantity' as prescribed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The magistrate accepted the arguments and noted that custodial interrogation was not required and that the accused have already been questioned for a considerable time on Saturday.



Comedian Bharti Singh is taken by Narcotics Control Bureau officers for medical test, at Ballard Estate, in Mumbai on Sunday

Shocked by Kerala's move against 'offensive' social media posts: PC

NEW DELHI

SENIOR Congress leader and former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said that he was "shocked" by the Kerala government's move to issue an ordinance to ensure stringent punishment for those found guilty of offensive social media posts. "Shocked by the law made by the LDF government in Kerala, making so-called offensive posts on the social media punishable with 5 years in prison," he tweeted. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan has given nod to the ordinance to amend the Kerala Police Act to provide for jail term for social media posts deemed offensive or threatening.

Section 118A incorporated in the Act says that anyone creating or

sending offensive message or that which is intended to offend or threaten another person, through any means of communication, is liable to face imprisonment of five years or fine of Rs 10,000 or both.

Chidambaram also lashed out at the LDF government and said: "Also shocked by the attempt to implicate Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala in a case where the investigation agency had filed a closure report four times."

"How will my friend Sitaram Yechury and CPI-M defend these atrocious decisions?" he added.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had okayed the investigations against Chennithala in the bar scam case of 2015.

Rampur royal family value pegged at ₹2,664 crore

RAMPUR

THE royal family of Rampur has finally been assigned a value -- Rs 2,664 crores. In their submissions

to the district and sessions judge of Rampur, the court-appointed commissioners filed their estimates of assets that belonged to the last Nawab of Rampur. The Nawab of

Rampur, Raza Ali Khan, was the first to accede to India after Independence in 1949 on the condition that two things would not change -- ownership of property and the

right of primogeniture. After his death in 1966, both spurred a dispute that led to one of the longest running civil suits in the country that is now in its 48th year.

DO BOOND ZINDAGI KI



A child being administered polio vaccine at a booth in Kolkata on Sunday

‘Dead’ Covid-19 patient returns home a day before his last rites

KOLKATA

IN a bizarre incident exposing callousness of a hospital's staff, a Covid-19 patient whose family was informed that he had died returned home just a day before his last rites were to be performed. The family had already consented to the cremation and had been performing the Hindu post-death ritual of ashouch. The state health department has formed a four-member enquiry committee to find out the guilty behind the blunder. An officer at the state health department said that a primary report has been submitted, based on which two nursing staff, a nurse in-charge and a doctor has been issued show-caused notices.

On November 4, Shikdas Banerjee and Mohini Mohan Mukherjee, both of them septuagenarians, had been admitted to Shri Balaram Seva Mandir, a state general hospital in North

24-Parganas district located about 20 km north of Kolkata. Later, as the condition of Mukherjee deteriorated, he was sent to Barasat Kadambagachhi hospital on November 7. However, the hospital authorities transferred all papers related to Banerjee. So, the authorities at the Barasat hospital took Mukherjee to be Banerjee and, after Mukherjee died on November 13, informed the family of Banerjee of his death, while in fact, Banerjee's condition had been improving at the Khardah Balaram hospital.

The family of Mukherjee, meanwhile, was regularly informed that the condition of their patient was improving. On November 16, the family was informed by the Balaram hospital authorities that Mukherjee was set to be released. However, when the family reached the hospital, they saw a different person was going to be handed over to them. "After the fam-

ily of Mukherjee lashed out at the hospital authorities, an inquiry was immediately initiated and it was revealed that Mukherjee had been transferred to the Barasat hospital with wrong papers. This led to the entire confusion," said a senior official of North 24-Parganas health department. Mukherjee's son, Sudip, has alleged that the wrong papers also led to wrong treatment and that his father died of utmost medical negligence. "The four-member inquiry committee has submitted its preliminary report. Necessary steps will be taken," said Tapas Kumar Roy, chief medical officer of health, North 24-Parganas. When asked how the Banerjee family made mistake in identifying his body and consented to the cremation of another person, a government official said that due to Covid-19 safety protocols, the bodies are shown to family members from a distance.

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Show foulmouthed politicians their place

By bringing OTT (Over the Top) platforms under the ambit of Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Centre appears to be contemplating to regulate social media. It also wants to have sort of content control in intermediaries like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube etc. Experts say that the I&B Ministry would make rules and regulations for OTT platforms since they generate content that is transmitted on OTT platforms as well as other social media platforms like YouTube or Facebook. But in case of Instagram and other such media, the content is not generated by them and hence in case of violation of rules or if any objectionable matter is found, they will be asked to remove the content within specific time and action would be taken if they do not comply

with the directions. It is certainly a good move. Similarly, the government also expressed its intention to go green and reduce carbon footprint by 30 to 35 percent. It wants to increase use of natural gas by four times, achieve renewable energy generation target before time before 2022. Along with all these, there is a need for censorship over the language political parties and leaders (no exception) are using these days whether it is election speeches or routine press conferences, lawmakers who include Ministers and Chief Ministers are forgetting that they should be role models for the people. If people today remember Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani, Indira Gandhi, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, N T Rama Rao, V S Atchutanandan or Puthalapalli Sundarayya as great leaders and orators, it is because they never crossed the limits of decency. They had always criticised the policies of their opponents, exposed the shortfalls in implementation and did indulge in rhetoric as well, but never did they use vulgar language or abuse anyone. They knew where and how to hit and where to stop. Hitting below the belt was a big 'No' for them. But now the language

of the present-day leaders has taken a different turn. All cuss words used by rowdy elements have become part of language used by the leaders both inside and outside legislatures. This virus has entered every nerve of leaders of political parties and State presidents of different parties to such an extent that they insist the media too use such words in print. Another disturbing factor is some sections of media highlights such derogatory language in the name of journalism. Media, instead of being a tool to disseminate news and analysis, is wasting its time and resources on such trivial abuses and encouraging the so-called leaders. Things don't stop there. Parties are treating newspapers which do not publish their cuss words as unfriendly media. If someone questions them, they say, "Every action will have a reaction." What a justification! Seems all those who go to the samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, offer flowers and participate in special prayers on Gandhi Jayanti should be sent for re-orientation classes on Gandhian philosophy so that at least a fraction of them will get "Sanmati" (noble mind).

It's time to redefine human rights

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjunhuala

India is being criticised by various international human rights watchdogs. The United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed "concern over restrictions on non-governmental organisations, arrests of activists

and implications of Citizenship Amendment Act." The Human Rights Watch has recently said, "The Indian government is using counterterrorism operations to silence peaceful dissenters, human rights activists, and journalists." There is much substance to these allegations.

The human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is indeed a milestone when seen against the backdrop of autocracies like Hitler's Germany and slave-harbours George Washington of the United States. The position of India is different since we had a "developed" concept of society. For us, the Declaration is actually a regression on many points. While taking the above criticisms seriously and restoring human rights as enshrined in the Declaration, India must simultaneously prepare an alternate Declaration and present it before the United Nations.

Article 1 of the Declaration stipulates that all human beings are "equal in dignity and rights." Article 3 stipulates that all have rights to life, liberty and security. Article 13 speaks of rights of freedom of movement. Article 26(1) provides for right to education. The difficulty is that no two of these many equalities can go together. If we were to secure equality of dignity between a weak and strong student in the class, it would be necessary to accept inequality of rights between the two. The right of the bright student would have to be restricted and more time provided to the weaker student in the laboratory to establish equality of dignity between the two. No two of the rights can go together. It was necessary to state upfront which would be the key "right" in which equality would be secured; and to acknowledge that inequality in all other parameters would be acceptable. The Declaration is a hotchpotch of mutually inconsistent equalities.

Our tradition has specified that equality will be secured only in 'opportunities of self-realisation.' Human beings are different in their samskaras (inner tendencies) and capacities. Each should be provided with such opportunities that are necessary for her self-development. One who has the samskara of making money should be given the freedom to do business; but one who has the samskaras of kingship must be deprived of that very freedom. It is necessary to amend the Declaration to say, "every human being is entitled to equal opportunities to realize his inner tendencies



One who has the samskara of making money should be given the freedom to do business; but one who has the samskaras of kingship must be deprived of that very freedom. It is necessary to amend the Declaration to say, "every human being is entitled to equal opportunities to realize his inner tendencies and inequality would be accepted in all other parameters." Article 7 of the Declaration provides that "all are equal before law." This means that the weak and the strong have equal legal rights. Naturally the weak would not be able to enforce their rights. Our tradition asks for an affirmative approach. Yudhishtira was selected as Yuvaraja because he awarded lesser punishment to the Sudra and progressively higher punishment to Vaisya and Kshatriya. The principle was that punishment should be awarded in keeping with one's social responsibilities. This affirmative inequality needs to be built into the Declaration

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Article 29 of the Declaration emphasises the primacy of the rights of the individual and permits them to be limited if necessary, for the 'general welfare of the society'. The problem here is that rights of the individual are primary. The result is that individual rights of the terrorists are given primacy while the larger society suffers because establishing that the activities of the terrorist are indeed against the welfare of the society is a hard task. Our tradition, on the other hand, puts "general welfare"

in the centre. It is said that "give up one for the family, family for the village, and the village for the society." Recently India has seen extra-judicial killings of the rapists and the society has lapped them up with glee because the society thinks that its welfare is secured by eliminating the rapists rather than harping about their human rights. It is necessary to amend this Article to say, "Human Rights of the individual will be subservient to the larger social interest."

Article 29(1) mentions that "everyone has duties to the community." But the discharge of these duties is not compulsory. These are empty advice without teeth. Article 26(2) says that education shall strengthen "respect for human rights and freedoms." It does not say that education shall strengthen the respect for "duties to the community." Articles 18, 19 and 20 provide for freedom of thought, expression and assembly. These are not contingent on one discharging his duties to the community. The result has been that human beings are not under any obligation to discharge their duties alongside demanding their human rights. This leads to ever in-

creasing violation of the rights of others. Our tradition, on the other hand, speaks only of duties. Gita says, "Duties alone are your right." The Declaration should be amended to make human rights contingent on the discharge of human duties.

The Declaration endorses the present constitution of the Security Council, which is based on inequality. But the Article 29(3) says that nothing shall be said against the principles of United Nations.

The civil and political rights of all human beings stipulated in Articles 4, 5, 14(1), 15, 16, 19 etc. have universal applicability. But the economic rights are restricted within the borders of nations. Article 13 restricts the freedom of movement to "within the borders of each State." If all human beings in the world are entitled to equal rights, then why should certain human beings be restricted from movement into another country? Article 21(2) provides that the right of equal access to public services will be applicable only within 'his country'. Pray, why? When civil rights are universal then why not access to public services be universal? Article 22 limits the right to social security "in accordance with resources of each State." Why should then political rights also be provided in accordance with resources of each State? The result of these provisions is that the industrial countries can interfere in the affairs of the developing countries in the name of political rights, but the developing countries cannot interfere in the industrial countries to secure their economic rights. It is necessary to make these economic rights universal.

It is high time that we listen to the international criticism of India's recent record on human rights, while, at the same time, we must draw up a more just and equitable Charter of Human Rights and present to the UN General Assembly for adoption.

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

Climate change: Act fast or perish

TEJ SINGH KARDAM

For 27 years after creation of United Nations in October 1945, environmental issues were not major concern of the UN. It was during the first Earth Summit, also known as United Nations Scientific Conference, held in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 1972, a declaration was adopted for setting up principles for preservation and enhancement of human environment. The declaration, for the first time, raised the issue of climate change, warning governments to be mindful of the activities that could lead to climate change and evaluate likelihood and magnitude of climate effects. But only in 1988 when global warming and depletion of Ozone layer got prominence in international debates and political agenda, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a forum for examination of greenhouse gases warming was established.

Subsequently, when the urgency of climate change was felt, in the United Nations Conference of Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, there was opening of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with an aim to stabilise atmospheric concentration of "greenhouse gases" to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with climate system. In December 1997, Kyoto Protocol in Japan was adopted to UNFCCC with an objective to reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 6-8 percent below 1990 levels by the industrialised countries. The Conference of Parties (CoP) are being held by the UN every year in different countries, India also hosted CoP-8 of UNFCCC during 2002 in New Delhi.

The most important UNFCCC, the COP-21 was held in Paris, France from 30th November to 12th December 2015. The Conference resulted in Paris Agreement. Paris Agreement's central aim was to strengthen global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit temperature even further to 1.5 degree Celsius. The agreement sought financial support from developed nations to developing countries, providing new technologies and capacity building framework in line with their national objectives. The Agreement requires all parties to put forward their best efforts through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. The last CoP 25 was held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019. In Indian context, sea levels along the Indian coast are projected to rise varying by 3.5 inches to as much as 34 inches (2.8 feet) by the end of the century due to global warming, posing potent threat to vast stretches of the western coast including Mumbai as well as major delta in east India. As per the studies of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, Mumbai and other stretches such as Khambhat and Kutch in Gujarat, parts of Konkan and south Kerala were "most vulnerable" to sea level rise. Threat posed by sea-level rise have direct implications for India's food security as hundreds of millions of people are dependent on river water systems that could be adversely impacted by possible inundation.

As per last World Bank report, In India, about 600 million people live in locations that could either become moderate or severe hotspots by 2050 under a business-as-usual scenario. States in the central, northern and north-western parts of India emerge as most vulnerable to changes in temperature and precipitation. By 2050, Chhattisgarh and MP are predicted to be the top two climate hotspot States and are likely to experience a decline of more than 9 percent in their living standards, followed by Rajasthan, UP and Maharashtra. Almost half of the South Asia's population, including India, now live in the vulnerable areas and will suffer from declining living standards that could be attributed to failing agricultural yields, lower labour productivity or related health impacts. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita will have a decline of 14.4 in Bangladesh, 9.8 percent in India and 10 percent in Sri Lanka by 2050.



Global warming is expected to make vegetables significantly scarcer around the world. By the end of this century, less water and hotter air will combine to cut average yields of vegetables which are crucial to a healthy diet by nearly one-third, said the report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. A 4-degree Celsius increase in temperature, which scientists expect by 2100 if global warming continues on its present trajectory, reduces average yield by more than 31 percent. Pauline Scheelbeek in the same report suggested that if we take a "business as usual" approach, environmental changes will reduce the global availability of these important foods.

At the current level of action committed by each signatory, called NDC's, global temperature is said to increase by 3.2 degree Celsius by 2030. If all governments maintained similar NDC's as Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, global temperatures would rise by 4 degree Celsius by 2030. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Turkey and US are likely to miss their NDC targets for 2030. Heat stress would add another set of dangers, even at 1.5 degree Celsius rise would expose more than 350 million people living in today's megacities including Lagos, Nigeria; Shanghai, China; Kolkata, India; and Karachi, Pakistan to deadly and persistent heat waves such as those experienced in 2015.

The major constraint, especially for developing countries is funds for reduction of emissions keeping their sustainable development and poverty alleviation. For example, our country has taken a lot of steps for mitigating the emissions - with the result India's emission rate is about 1.3 tonnes per capita against a global average of 4.2 tonnes, but a lot needs to be done for achieving the targets as per Paris Agreement.

Looking at the challenge, it would be better if the countries around the world go for Renewable Energy sources on a large scale, steadily reducing reliance on fossil fuels, shifting substantially to electric mobility and adopting green industrial processes. It would be desirable, as pointed out by IPCC, to emulate few programmes like Ethiopia's Climate resilient Green Economy Strategy, Mozambique's Green Economic Action Plan and Costa Rica's Ecosystem and Conservation driven Green Transition Path, to combat climate change impacts.

India has been striving to introduce policies and programmes to reduce GHG's emissions by encouraging renewable energy, production and adoption of ecologically sensitive technology, despite many odds like lack of capital and production of more energy to feed large population. The government is also targeting a total forest cover of one-third of the land area. The rapid electrification of India's Railways, establishment of metro rail systems in many cities, the push towards CNG vehicles etc are the positive steps taken up by the government.

I remember during November 2018, thousands of schoolchildren demonstrated on streets of many Australian cities. They were protesting against their government's lacklustre response to climate change. They were protesting with the demands like closure of coal mining projects. They were conveying feeling that Natural Catastrophe would make academic attainment meaningless. Similarly, during Conference Of Parties (COP-24), at Katowice, Poland in 2018, Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old activist from Sweden shook the gathering with a message, "Until you start focusing on what needs to be done, rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope." A United Nations report, in the end of 2018, says that the window of opportunity to climate change will close within a decade or so. Who will understand the implications of it better than children? Therefore, it is advisable to introduce Environmental Sciences - which specifically refers to the dangers of global warming and impending disasters associated with climate change, in the curriculum in schools across the globe on the pattern of Sweden and Australia.

Therefore, it is time now for the humanity as a whole including the political leaders around the world to work together for the mitigation of Greenhouse Gases for common good. If the heat trapping carbon dioxide emissions continue at the current levels, by the year 2300, the globe will experience 35 to 50% of the extinction seen in the "Great Dying" long long back wherein about 90% of sea life and 70% of land life went extinct. But this time the only difference is the human race will be an active catalyst for this extinction. At a stage when survival of mankind is at stake, does the global human community want it to happen yet again?

(The writer is a retired IFS official based in Warangal. Views expressed are personal)

No leadership crisis in Congress: Khurshid

ASIM KAMAL

AMID criticism of the Congress top brass by some leaders following a poor show in the Bihar polls, senior leader Salman Khurshid on Sunday said there was no leadership crisis in the party and an all-round support for Sonia and Rahul Gandhi was "apparent to anyone who was not blind".

Khurshid, who is among the leaders considered close to the Gandhi family, also said there were enough forums in the Congress for airing views and doing so outside the party "hurts" it, remarks that come days after senior leader Kapil Sibal and some others went public with their criticism of the party leadership. "The leadership listens to me, I am given an opportunity, they (those criticising in the media) are given an opportunity, where does this thing come from that the leadership is not listening," Khurshid said. Asked about comments by Sibal and another senior leader P Chidambaram on Congress' poor showing in the Bihar election and recent by-polls, he said he cannot disagree with what they have said, but asked why does anybody have to go out and tell the media and the world that "we need to do this". "Analysis is done all the time, there is no quarrel about analysis. It will be done. The

leadership, of which all these people are a part, will appropriately look at what may have gone wrong, how we could have improved, and that will happen in the normal course, we needn't talk about it in the public," said Khurshid, a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC). His remarks come days after Sibal's public criticism of the Congress leadership and his statement that the time of introspection was over and people no longer saw the party as an effective alternative. Asked about some leaders calling for having a full-time president, he said they should come forward and talk about it inside the party. "See our leader and say you don't look good without a label, the leader will take a call," Khurshid said. Hitting out at those voicing concerns that Sonia Gandhi has been interim chief for over a year, he asked who decides one year is too long for having an interim chief and asserted that if the process of electing a new president is taking time, there must be a good reason for it. "Nobody has gone away, they are all here. The only insistence is on a label, why do you insist on a label. There is no president in the Bahujan Samaj Party, there is no chairman in the Left-wing parties, only general secretaries... Every party cannot follow the same model," he said. The party has a president in Sonia Gandhi, though

interim, which is not outside the Constitution, not unreasonable and not something the party "can't survive with", Khurshid said. "We are happy, we are working with it. There is no leadership crisis, I say that with great emphasis," he asserted. The election committee is working on the election of the president which is taking time due to Covid-19, he said, adding that all the work and preparations are underway. Asked if everyone in the Congress is strongly behind Rahul Gandhi as their leader, Khurshid said, "I think that is apparent to anyone who is not blind, that people are fully supportive of Congress president Sonia ji and of Rahul Gandhi, who is our former president. Everybody supports them." "Those who question (the leadership), if they claim to be democrats, they should have some courtesy to include us who don't question (the leadership) and inside the party we can decide whether they are more, or we are more. All our objection is about this happening outside the party," he said. On whether there are forums available in the party where leaders can articulate their concerns, Khurshid said, "Of course. How did they (those saying there is no forum to express views) become MPs. Everyone who is talking, are they not MPs. That must have been done somewhere in the party, not done on the

streets." There is a reasonable amount of exchange of views in the party, said Khurshid, who was last week named as convenor of the committee on foreign affairs formed by the party. Interestingly, among those nominated in the party's committees on economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security, were senior party leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Veerappa Moily and Shashi Tharoor, who were part of the 23 letter-writers seeking an organisational overhaul of the Congress. On his recent assertion that if the mood of the electorate is resistant to the liberal values the party has espoused, it should be prepared for a long struggle rather than look for shortcuts, Khurshid said what he meant by shortcut was that one gives up their ideology. "Why should you give up your ideology. If your ideology is not persuading the voter to go with you, you should either shut shop, or you wait. We persuade the voter, it will take time," he said. "Why are we so worried that we have lost power and therefore we must get back into power in weeks or months or years etc. If it doesn't happen for a while, we will continue to work. Politics is about the passion for a cause, politics is not about a pre-qualification for power. We must pursue our cause and we will pursue our cause," Khurshid said.

APSRTC to resume bus services to Tamil Nadu after 8 months

- ▶ Initially 124 buses will be operated to different places
- ▶ Of these, 25 each will be to Chennai and Vellore

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

AFTER a gap of 8 months, the State-run transport corporation APSRTC is to resume its inter-State bus services to Tamil Nadu, the neighbouring State from November 25.

RTC, Tirupati region plies 200 services to various towns and cities in Tamil Nadu from where pilgrims to Tirumala arrive more and also the district has close association with the State due to sizable number of Tamil population in Chittoor district.

A senior official disclosed that to begin with the RTC is planning to operate 124 buses from Chittoor district to various towns in Tamil Nadu including Chennai (25), Vellore (25), Kanchi (10), Tiruttani (5), Puducheri (3) and other places. With the Covid cases both in



APSRTC Regional Manager T Chengal Reddy holding a meeting with senior officials in Tirupati on Sunday

Tamil Nadu more so in Chennai, the capital city and also in Chittoor district particularly Tirupati, the pilgrim centre, which reported maximum numbers cases in the district coming down, the RTC management gave green signal to resume bus services from the district to Tamil Nadu, the official said adding that if required RTC will immediately

increase the number of bus services if there is more demand.

Advance reservation facility is available for Chennai and Puducheri bus services. The region is already running the inter-State bus services to Hyderabad and Bengaluru for the convenience of the pilgrims and general public.

It is pertinent to note that

the Railways also decided to resume the inter-State train Saphthagiri Express connecting Tirupati with Chennai city improving transport facility, which was hit due to the pandemic, between the two cities.

Ahead of the resuming of the bus services to Tamil Nadu, Regional Manager T Chengal Reddy on Sunday held a meeting with senior officials including Assistant Traffic Manager (ATM) Viswanath, Tirupati depot assistant manager (traffic) Pushpalatha and others on the required measures for operating the bus services.

Reddy said that those visiting Tirupati on pilgrimage for darshan of Lord Venkateswara, Tirumala should have darshan ticket for advance booking of bus tickets for Tirumala.

In case of no darshan ticket, the pilgrims should get down in Tirupati and avail the darshan tickets (Offline Sarva Darshan) being issued daily by the TTD in Vishnu Nivasam and Bhudevi Complex for going to Tirumala.

IAS, IRS officers in AP shifted

- ▶ K Raveen Kumar Reddy is posted as vice-chairman and MD of APIIC
- ▶ Ch Rajeswara Reddy appointed MD of the AP Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Secretary Nilam Sawhney issued an order here on Sunday transferring the officers of some departments. Indian Defence Estates Services officer Sura Balakrishna has been repatriated to his parent department with immediate effect since he had completed his term of deputation to the AP government.

M V Seshagiri Babu, who is waiting for posting, is posted as Inspector General of Stamps and Registrations in the place of Siddharth Jain who was posted as Commissioner, Survey and Settlement.

Indian Railways Traffic Services (IRTS) officer K Raveen Kumar Reddy who is on deputation is posted as Vice-Chairman and Managing

Director of the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC).

Indian Revenue Services officer M Ramana Reddy, who is waiting for posting, is placed at the disposal of the Infrastructure and Investment Department to post him as Chief Executive Officer, AP Towers Ltd. He is also placed on Full Additional Charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer of the Concept Cities.

Another IRS officer Ch Rajeswara Reddy, who is waiting for posting, is placed at the disposal of the School Education Department to post him as Managing Director of the AP Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation replacing Sura Balakrishna who has completed the term of deputation to AP government. He was relieved and repatriated to his parent cadre with immediate effect. He is directed to report to his parent cadre.

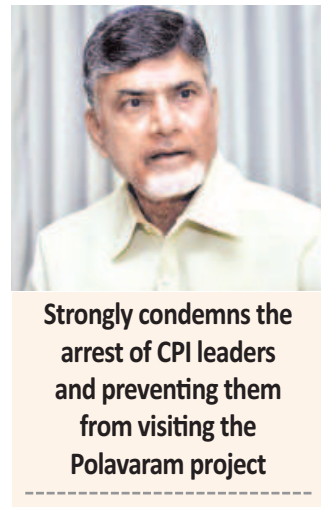
IRS officer SBR Kumar Laqhimsetty, who is waiting for posting, is posted as Director of the Insurance Medical Services.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday accused the YSRCP government of not just destroying the State development but also suppressing the democratic rights of the Opposition leaders to protest against its anti-people activities.

Naidu deplored that when the Opposition leaders were agitating on behalf of the people and for the protection of their rights, the ruling party was using oppressive methods to suppress them. The arrests of the CPI leaders to prevent them from protesting at Polavaram were highly condemnable.

In a statement here, the TDP chief said that the time has come for all sections of people to unitedly condemn and confront the misdeeds of this government. It was the duty of the Opposition leaders to protest and agitate for the cause of the people. Polavaram dam was not a prohibited area. The government had no right to



arrest the Opposition leaders just for trying to take part in protests. Naidu called for all round condemnation of the undemocratic and despotic activities of the Jagan Reddy regime. It was unfortunate that for the last one year, there was undue delay in the Polavaram works. The resettlement packages for the project evacuees were thrown to winds. Now, plans on reduction of the

- Party national secretary K Narayana wonders why the govt stopped the CPI leaders from visiting the project on Sunday
- Calls for unity among the Left parties in the country to fight against the BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE left parties should come under an umbrella, setting aside their differences for a national alternative to stop the communal and divisive BJP, said CPI national secretary K Narayana.

Speaking to media here on Sunday, Narayana said that the grand old party Congress was becoming weak with each passing day with its self-destructive approach while the regional parties were genuflecting before the BJP emboldening the saffron party indulging in communal and divisive politics endangering national unity and integrity.

With no alternative, the BJP is now engaged in the destruction of Constitutional institutions and also diluting even the profit-making public sector undertakings like LIC, Railways and even intro-

CPI plans ‘Chalo Polavaram’ to expose failures of YSRCP govt



CPI activists led by their national secretary K Narayana staging a dharna near the Ambedkar statue in Tirupati on Sunday opposing the detention of the party leaders by the State government

duced privatisation in defense sector unmindful of its consequences, he said while stressing on the Left parties coming together which he said is the need of the hour.

He alleged that the BJP is now in control of the Election Commission and turned the CBI as its pet dog which the party is misusing to ensure political parties and

leaders toe its line and warned that if it is not checked the democracy in our country is in danger.

Citing the Bihar Assembly elections, he said the Left unity paid rich dividends with the parties getting 18 seats though the Mahagatbandhan just missed from coming to power due to glitches in EVM, Congress failure and

1,121 fresh cases in AP

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh's Covid-19 tally increased to 8,62,213 on Sunday after 1,121 fresh cases were added. The latest bulletin said 1,631 coronavirus patients got cured and 11 more succumbed in the last 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday.

The total recoveries now increased to 8,41,026 and the toll to 6,938, leaving 14,249 active cases in the State. After 96.15 lakh total sample tests, the infection positivity rates slid below the nine per cent

- 11 deaths reported and toll rises to 6,938

mark to 8.97 on Sunday.

The five hotspot districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Krishna and Chittoor reported less than 200 new cases each, four districts less than 100 each and four more added less than 50 each. Chittoor and Krishna districts recorded two fresh Covid-19 fatalities each while seven other districts reported one more death each, the bulletin added.

Covid biggest challenge since World War-II: Modi

Continued from P1

He called for greater transparency in governance systems which will inspire our citizens to deal with shared challenges and enhance their confidence. He also said that dealing with environment and nature as trustees rather than owners will inspire

us towards a holistic and healthy lifestyle, a principle whose benchmark could be a per capita carbon footprint.

Noting that ‘work from anywhere’ is a new normal in the post-Covid world, the PM also suggested creation of a G20 virtual secretariat as a follow-up and documentation repository.

CBI begins probe into caustic social media comments against judiciary

- ▶ Records witness statement of advocate Lakshminarayana who first lodged a complaint with the police against the remarks made by YSRCP leaders
- ▶ Later, he also filed a contempt petition in the High Court against the social media activists of YSRCP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) here on Sunday started investigation into the rude comments made by certain leaders including the MPs, MLAs and former MLAs, all belonging to the YSR Congress party.

As part of the investigation, the CBI sleuths invited advocate V V Lakshminarayana who lodged a complaint first with the police against the caustic remarks in the social media to record his witness statement.

It may be recalled that the advocate filed a representation to the Governor demanding the discontinuation of Pandula



V V Lakshminarayana

Ravindra Babu as the MLC and not to allow him to take oath as the MLC. He pointed out that Ravindra Babu made serious objectionable remarks against the judges and Chandrababu Naidu stating that they could not move a hair

of the Chief Minister.

Later, he also filed a contempt petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court against the social media activists of the YSR Congress Party Dondedi Venkata Rami Reddy, Kishore Reddy Darisa, Balakrishna Reddy Kuthati and Jalagam Venkata Satyanarayana.

The complaint, which was referred to the State CID, was later transferred to the CBI by the High Court.

Subsequently, the CBI started investigation into the allegations by collecting evidence from the advocate here on Sunday at the CBI camp office in Vijayawada.

Advocate Lakshminarayana submitted further evidence to the CBI including the comments of other YSR Congress leaders Vijayasai Reddy, Nandigam Suresh, Speaker T Sitaran and others who passed reckless comments against the judges.

Lakshminarayana said that he had submitted all the evidence to the CBI and he was told that he would be asked to appear once again at a later date.

2 die, eight injured as car crashes into lorry

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ONGOLE

THE happy moments of a marriage party come to an end when a vehicle they were travelling met with an accident here on Sunday.

According to ASRK Reddy, Inspector of Ongole Taluk police station, Kolluri Hemachandra Kumar, a native of Pinapadu of Tenali, married Sanagapalli Anusha of Ganganamma Pet of Tenali at Tirumala on Saturday and were returning with their family members in two vehicles.

The vehicle of the bride and bridegroom was a little ahead of the other vehicle and they were going on the Chennai- Kolkata National Highway, NH-16. On the bypass flyover at Ongole, the Winger with registration number AP07TM5362 in which the relatives of the bridegroom were travelling hit a lorry loaded with pipes from behind. The same vehicle was hit by another lorry from behind when the car was being reversed.

In the gruesome accident, two people Chevuri Satyanarayana Murthy (65) of Reven-

- ▶ The victims belonged to a marriage party and were returning from Tirumala
- ▶ The injured have been admitted to a hospital in Ongole

drapadu village and Pothuri Kasi Annapuramma (55) of Tirupati town died on the spot while Kolluri Umamaheswara Rao, Kolluri Sujatha of Bapatla, Kolluri Nagalakshmi Padma of Tenali, Pothuri Lakshmi Navya Seetha of Tirupati town, Parchuri Chenchu Subbaiah, Parchuri Prasanna Rani of Guntur, Pothuri Umamaheswara Rao of Hyderabad, and the driver Shaik Jani of Guntur sustained injuries.

The police personnel immediately shifted the injured to KIMS Ongole and the dead bodies to the RIMS Ongole for post-mortem.

The taluk CI ASRK Reddy announced that they had booked a case 578/2000 under sections of 304(A), 337, 338 of IPC, 134(A), 134(B) read with 187 of MV Act and are investigating the same.

Attacks by prime accused on judiciary alarming: Yanamala

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

FORMER Minister and senior TDP leader Yanamala Ramakrishnu on Sunday called upon all sections of the Indian society to condemn the ongoing attacks by the prime accused persons in different cases on the courts and the judges.

Yanamala termed it as ‘alarming’ and ‘frightening’ that those accused in serious cases of money laundering and huge corruption were targeting the judiciary itself without any fear of the laws of the land. All the judges should come together and condemn the attacks on the judicial

autonomy. In a statement here, the Opposition Leader in AP Legislative Council asserted that every citizen should treat the AP Chief Minister’s letter to the Chief Justice of India with the seriousness it deserves. If proper and timely action was not taken against such gross acts of misconduct, those accused in serious cases would get emboldened further.

Yanamala demanded that the CM’s letter to the CJI be considered as a clear case of contempt of the court. In this case, the contempr was relating to an issue involving none other than the Chief Justice of India himself. There was a stronger need than

ever before to protect the autonomy of the courts and the judges.

Stating that the Jagan Reddy regime was destroying AP, Yanamala deplored that the Chief Minister and his Ministers and his advisors were deliberately and fearlessly undermining all the Constitutional institutions in the State.

The ruling party leaders had weakened all the four pillars of democracy.

Demolitions were started with Praja Vedika which was built with people’s money. Then, established systems came under attack even as the future of the State was being pushed into darkness.

Kejriwal cheers Dilliwalas

Continued from P1

The ranking was based on the basis of 25 factors, including social media hashtags, number of check-ins, diversity, tourist attractions, weather and more. It also included factors like Covid-19 infections in July, income incongruity and unemployment.

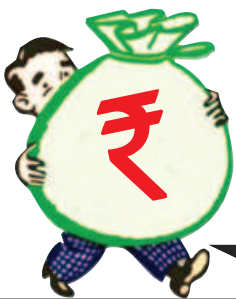
The first 10 cities in the list for 2021: 1) London 2) New York 3) Paris 4) Moscow 5) Tokyo 6) Dubai 7) Singapore 8) Barcelona 9) Los Angeles 10) Madrid

Besides the top 10 cities, a host of other cities also featured in the list. They are San Francisco, Amsterdam, Abu Dhabi, Toronto, Prague, Washington DC, Rome, St Petersburg, among others.



It's not whether you're right or wrong that's important, but how much money you make when you're right and how much you lose when you're wrong.

— George Soros



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities

THE HANS INDIA
DELHI MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2020



IN SHORT

Forex reserves surge to \$573 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$4.277 billion to a lifetime high of \$ 572.771 billion in the week ended November 13, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended November 6, the reserves had risen by a massive \$7.779 billion to \$ 568.494 billion. In the reporting week, the jump in reserves was on account of an increase in Foreign Current Assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves. FCAs climbed by \$5.526 billion to \$530.268 billion, the Reserve Bank of India's weekly 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 declined by \$ 1.233 billion in the reporting week to \$ 36.354 billion, as per the data. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remained unchanged at \$1.488 billion.

New equity norms for large IPO

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed to reduce the minimum offer size in an initial share-sale, whereby companies with a post-issue capital of above Rs 10,000 crore would be required to offer at least 5 per cent stake in IPO. At present, all companies with a post-issue capital above Rs 4,000 crore are compulsorily required to dilute at least 10 per cent shareholding in Initial Public Offering (IPO). In view of the proposal, Sebi said there could be a scenario where large issuers may not be compliant with 10 per cent minimum public shareholding (MPS) at the time of listing. Accordingly, the regulator recommended that MPS of 10 per cent should be achieved in 18 months by such issuers and 25 per cent within 3 years from the date of listing. Further, the regulator has suggested to provide additional time to comply with MPS of 25 per cent in case of very large issuers with post issue Market Capitalization (MCap) of Rs 1 lakh crore and above.

Sebi plans investors' week activities

There is a need for new investors to take informed investment decisions without getting lured by false promises and unsolicited advice, Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi has said as the regulator spearheads World Investors Week celebrations in India beginning Monday. Every year, the World Investor Week (WIIW) is celebrated the world over, under the aegis of IOSCO, the global body of securities regulators, in order to give further impetus to the various investor education and awareness initiatives. The WIIW is celebrated in more than 100 jurisdictions across the world. Sebi has been participating in the celebrations along with exchanges, depositories, investor associations, commodity derivative trainers and resource persons since 2017. Sebi is the national coordinator for the WIIW in India, which will be celebrated this time from November 23-29. "There is a need for the new investors to make informed investment decisions. Thus, investor awareness and education play an important role in educating the investor. One should not get lured by false promises and by unsolicited advice," Tyagi said in a special message on this occasion.

Mkt course hinges on global cues

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Amidst bouts of volatility, high liquidity coupled with improving global economic indicators helped markets close on optimistic note during the week ended. The Sensex rose 439.25 points or 1.01 per cent to close at 43,882 and the Nifty advanced by 139.10 points or 1.09 per cent to end at 12,859. However, the real action was in broader markets with the Nifty Midcap index and Smallcap index notching gains of 2.8 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively.

Sectorally, Financials, Capital goods, Auto and Metals led the gains. IT and Pharma were muted succumbing to selling at higher levels. It is pertinent to observe that FIIs have bought shares worth Rs 46,251.02 crore in November, the highest monthly inflow in at least last two decades, taking the total net inflow in the current calendar year to nearly Rs 88,000 crore. On the flipside, DIIs net sold over Rs 32,600 crore in November alone, which seems to be the highest ever selling in a month.

Market players expect that a weaker dollar and high liquidity are likely to bring more inflows into emerging markets and India is one of the preferred markets in this space. Ongoing rally has broadened in terms of incremental sectoral rotation into cyclical which were lagging earlier and now catching up. Observers say that broader market will continue with its catch up activity by relatively outperforming the benchmarks.

After conclusion of multiyear corrective phase, both the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices are now moving up with significant jump in the market breadth. It is interesting to observe that 87 per

MARKET Khabrein



After corrective phase, both the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices now moving up

cent stocks of the Nifty Midcap and Small cap indices are trading above 200 days SMA compared to last week's reading of 79 per cent. The economy is showing resilience as evidenced by reports of Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. GM upgraded India's FY21 GDP forecast to -10.3 per cent from a -14.8 per cent contraction estimated earlier. Seeing the positive momentum, Morgan Stanley forecast Sensex level to be at 50,000-level by the end of 2021 in its base case scenario. This is 14 per cent higher than the current level. The firm expected the index to be at 59,000 and 37,000 in its bull and bear case scenario.

The positive response from vaccine development would lead to a faster and higher recovery in economic activities. The government's latest fiscal stimulus package, aimed at manufacturing, infrastructure, job creation, credit supply, and stressed sectors of the economy, provided further impetus to markets.

Inflation continues to rise with wholesale price index-based (WPI-based) inflation rate rising for the third straight month to an eight-month high of 1.48 per cent. Going ahead, the market is likely to be volatile as sentiments oscillate be-

tween fear of rising Covid cases globally and optimism over vaccine progress.

Heard on the street

A rally in the stock market has stagnated recently, after enthusiasm about the development of effective coronavirus vaccines propelled several equity indices across the globe to record highs. The markets are busy trying to balance short term negatives with the longer-term good news that is coming from vaccines.

Global investors expect Asia's emerging-market stocks to outperform peers elsewhere in the world by the greatest margin in a quarter of a century this year.

In short, the countries that have been hit hardest this year have the largest potential recovery to make too-if the narrative shifts decisively toward global recovery. Too many investors become obsessed with being right, even when the gains are small. Winning big and cutting your losses when you're wrong are more important than being right.

Futures and options / sector watch

Ahead of the settlement week, derivative segment witnessed ro-

bust volumes. Track rollover of positions to next month to spot winners in stock futures. Options data indicates aggressive Put writing at 12,800 strike and Call writing at 13,000 strike. The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 16.43 per cent while that for Put options closed at 16.79. Despite sharp profit taking bouts witnessed in-between the past five sessions, the volatility remained quite unchanged with the Nifty VIX losing just 0.43 per cent over the week and closing at 19.57 per cent.

PCR OI for the week closed at 1.15. Failure to sustain above 12,800 may trigger selling pressure pushing the Nifty towards 12,600. If Nifty breaks above 13,000 with volumes expect a strong short-covering move towards 13,300 levels. The derivative setup indicates that the coming week is likely to be more volatile and Nifty may oscillate in a broader range of 12,600-13,000, punters feel. Keep an eye on Bajaj twins, L&T Finance, M&M Finance and private banks. The auto & auto component industry is the largest beneficiary from the PLI scheme. Use declines to buy auto and auto component stocks.

Stock futures

Looking good are Colgate, Exide Inds, GMR Infra, ITC, RBL Bank, Siemens and Tata Power. Sell on rallies are Biocon, Hero Motocorp, Infosys, BPCL and UPL.

Stock picks

Xpro India Limited manufactures semi-finished plastic products, such as thermoplastic films/sheets/layers. The company operates its polymers business in two divisions: Biax Division and Coex Division. Biax Division manufactures a range of coextruded biaxially oriented

polypropylene (BOPP) films and dielectric films on automated production lines, having multipurpose use in applications ranging from food packaging to specialized films for use in electronics, besides being used for print lamination, cigarette overwraps and adhesive tape, among others. Buy on declines for long term target of Rs100.

Jamma Auto Industries Limited is India's largest, and amongst world's third largest, manufacturer of tapered leaf springs and parabolic springs for automobiles. The company is fast expanding its presence in new-generation products, like air suspension and lift axle. Its manufacturing plants are located in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana; Bhind, Madhya Pradesh; Kharsawan, Jharkhand; Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu; Pune, Maharashtra, and Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. Buy on declines for medium term target of Rs100. Kanoria Chemicals and Industries Limited is engaged in the manufacturing of chemical intermediates in India. The company also has business interests in automotive and industrial electronics, textiles and renewable energy generation. In the year 2012, KCI acquired APAG Holding AG, the Switzerland based holding company and its wholly owned subsidiary APAG Elektronik AG, Switzerland. Its solar power business segment includes power generation from solar energy. It's others segment includes financial activities. It has two chemicals manufacturing facilities, one at Ankleshwar in Gujarat, and the second at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Buy for medium term target of Rs 90.

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

NIFTY MAY CONSOLIDATE AMID VOLATILITY

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

Barring on Thursday, the stock market continued its positive momentum last week. Nifty and Sensex recorded all-time highs during the week. The Nifty



dollar index fell by 10.3 per cent. The second driver for the market is the banks. The Bank Nifty gained 9260 points or 45.80 per cent since 25th September low. It also lost momentum compared to the previous two weeks. It may

face a stiffer resistance at 30250 as I mentioned earlier. The other drivers like Reliance, IT and Pharma indices were subdued and entered lagging quadrant during the last week. The mid and smallcap participation is also another driver for the market. The Midcap index has broken out of a two-year resistance, but the small-cap index is still below the January high.

On the indicators front, the RSI (71.38) is in the bullish zone, and the MACD is at a historical overbought condition. Many of the other indicators are in the overbought conditions. This may result in profit booking. For this week, the Nifty may consolidate between 12,615 to 13,165 zone with increased volatility and volume. As the index is trading 7.76 per cent above the 50DMA, and 4.34 per cent above the 20DMA, it may try to reach near to these short term averages. Below 12,615 levels, the Nifty may test 12400 levels. The upside capped at 13,165 levels for this week.

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

Right asset allocation essential



K Naresh Kumar

A few years back, during a family vacation, on our way to a water theme park I saw a signboard for skydiving near Austin, TX. The price was so attractive that I couldn't resist, although it wasn't part of the plan, I wanted to experience it. My brother, a year younger to me dissuaded saying that it's too risky while my wife stopped talking to me on just mentioning about my plan. I felt so missing it and tried to put across the statistics on the fatality or accident rates during skydiving in the US.

A casual Googling on mortality rate in skydiving puts the odds at 0.000002 per cent i.e., about one tandem student fatality every 500,000 tandem jumps. Further research on that topic had shown me a statistic of about four deaths in four million jumps in 2018 in the US. I tried to reason with my family on how we get scared of flying in the planes while the statistics actually are way lower than that of the

road casualties. These figures stand at one fatal accident for every 5.58 million flights in 2018. I still couldn't win their approval for the adventure.

While the risk is not completely off the table, the possibility of event happening is so low, but our perception is quite the opposite. Consider this with casualties due to rash or speed driving on a highway, the probability is much higher, but we witness many trying to push the throttle to the max. So, this brings us to conclude that risk is defined not as it is but as we perceive it. The same is the case with investing. High conviction levels in an investment avenue or philosophy makes us to ignore or downplay the risks associated. We tend to become blind or numb to the increased risk we pursue in trying to get the best out of that situation.

Continuing more on the skydiving topic, have you ever wondered, why was the diver wearing a helmet? For all the divers, there's an emergency chute provided as a back-up, so would one additional chute be sufficient or need another one or even more? All these safety measures have led to popularity of skydiving as a sport. But despite the increased safety measures, the mortality rate remained more or less at the same range. This

has got to do with the behavior of humans as Bill Booth, the pioneer of skydiving observed that 'safer the skydiving gear becomes the more chances skydivers will take, in order to keep the fatality rate constant'. This brings into focus an important behavioral investing bias called Peltzman Effect. The Peltzman effect states that people are more likely to engage in risky behavior when security measures have been mandated. This was named for Sam Peltzman's postulation about man-



dating the use of seatbelts in automobiles. In other words, it's simply is about risk compensation, which suggests that people typically adjust their behavior in response to the perceived level of risk, becoming more careful where they sense greater risk and less careful if they feel more protected. So, this kind of explains why my folks didn't allow me to get on that adventure.

Now drawing parallel to investing, we tend to get carried

away with the market happenings and sometimes make stretched bets that catapult our risk beyond our tolerance levels in trying to mitigate the fear-of-missing-out (FOMO). Particularly, this is true when investors find safety in under-sized contrarian allocations. For instance, conventionally it's understood that debt instruments have inverse relationship to equities and vice versa. If an investor were to invest in debt where the allocation is only 10 per cent to that of the 90 per cent equity would it help the portfolio? Equating the helmet in skydiving to debt portion of the investment, a mere allocation wouldn't help sustain the balance in the portfolio. It requires a proper allocation that suffices or offsets the risk.

Though, there's no such magic figure for the right mix, it should ideally reflect the risk appetite of the individual. The best way to come trumps over this bias is to have an optimal asset allocation where each asset class is less related or unrelated to each of the other constituents and at a proportion that brings in balance during risk events.

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

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

Despite upward movement during the last week, the resistance level remained at 13,000 strike as the highest Put Open Interest (OI) was concentrated at this level for the past two weeks. As per the futures and options (F&O) data, highest OI was seen at 13,000CE and 12,000PE. Indicating a possible correction at the higher levels, the support level declined by 700 points to 12,000 strike. The NSE Nifty largely consolidated near life-time highs amid high volatility and witnessed some selling pressure from its highest Call base of 13,000 strike.

The highest Call OI (35.99 lakh contracts) was concentrated at 13,000 strike followed by 13,500 strike with 32.92 lakh contracts, 12,900 strike with 27.88 lakh contracts and 13,200 strike, which

recorded maximum Call OI addition of 6.33 lakh contracts, with 25.88 lakh contracts.

The 12,000 strike has highest Put OI of 44.03 lakh contracts followed by 12,800 strike, which recorded maximum Put OI build-up of 17.18 lakh contracts, with 37.16 lakh contracts, 12,500 strike with 32.79 lakh contracts and 11,500 strike with 27.01 lakh contracts. Further, 12,000/12,500/12,600/12,300 strikes recorded significant Put OI addition. In the options space, significant writing was seen at OTM Call and Put strikes with highest Call OI at the 13,000 Call strike. ATM 12,800 Put now holds one of the highest OI making it an immediate support in the near term, however, if it breaks 12,800 level, then the next crucial support would be at 12,500, which is the VWAP for the current series, according to ICICI

Profit booking likely till 12,600 level; FPIs remain net buyers in F&O space



Direct.com.

Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd, said: "From the derivatives data, Put writers added hefty Open Interest

at 12,800 strike, while Call writers at 13,000 strike holds with maximum Open Interest of more than 36 lakh shares."

As per the ICICI Direct.com data, FPI flows remained buoyant

F&O TRADING			
Product	Contracts (Rs/cr)	Turnover	Premium (Rs/cr)
Index Futures	6,07,125	48,280.72	--
Stock Futures	11,69,539	91,496.55	--
Index Options	2,10,75,652	17,18,294.29	12,318.27
Stock Options	22,10,489	1,83,536.24	2,620.24
F&O Total	2,50,62,805	20,41,607.80	14,938.51

SOURCE: NSE / As on Nov. 20, 2020

in the Indian markets, while the net figure for November is more than Rs 40,000 crore. The buying support from FPIs pushed the NSE Nifty to life time highs. Analysts predict that the current momentum of inflows may pause for a while and it's more likely to result in index consolidation in the short-term. The latest surge of Covid-19 cases seen across the globe has halted the ongoing momentum. Most global indices retraced marginally last week. "Indian markets

closed on a positive note for a third consecutive week with Nifty ending above 12,850 level, while Bank Nifty ended the week above 29,200 level with gains of more than two per cent week on week. The gains were supported by Bajaj twins, HDFC Bank along with Kotak Mahindra Bank," observed Bisht.

For the week ended November 22, 2020, BSE Sensex closed at 43,882.25, a net gain of 244.27 points or 0.55 per cent, as against 43,637.98 points. Similarly, NSE

Nifty too moved up by 78.80 points or 0.61 per cent and closed at 12,859.05 points from 12,780.25 points. Bisht forecasts that "from the technical front, secondary oscillators suggest that volatility will continue to grip the market in coming sessions as well. On downside, 12800 would act as immediate support for Nifty below which we can expect further profit booking in index till 12,600 levels."

Implied Volatility (IV) slipped below 20 per cent due to writing in OTM Puts. Analysts feel the ongoing up-trend in the index would continue. "The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 16.43 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 16.79. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 19.57 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.15," added Bisht. FPIs, in the F&O space, remained net buyers as they bought Rs 403 crore in index futures and sold to the tune of Rs 2,746 crore in the stock futures segment. FPIs also bought index options worth Rs 4,523 crore during the week.

State govt plans balm for ailing film industry

The pink party likely to include steps to be taken to benefit the film industry in its GHMC poll manifesto



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao holding a meeting with film personalities at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE State government is likely to announce corona relief package to the Telugu film industry, which has been badly affected due to closure of cinema halls and stalling of shooting for the last six months.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said on Sunday said that the TRS would include steps to be taken to benefit the

film industry in its GHMC poll manifesto.

“The government is planning to provide concessions and exemptions to support the film industry and the workers, as they have suffered losses due to stoppage of film shootings, closure of theatres in the lockdown period,” the Chief Minister said during a meeting held with the film personalities, attended by Film Chamber leaders Narayan Das Narang and KL Damodar

and Producers’ Council president C Kalyan and distributor Sudhakar Reddy and producer Niranjan Reddy at the Pragathi Bhavan.

The film industry representatives explained the Chief Minister the losses incurred by the industry due to Covid pandemic and urged him to extend support. The Chief Minister has positively responded to their request.

Hyderabad is one of the

biggest film industries in the country where it provides employment to lakhs of people, he said, asserting that both the government and the film personalities should make joint attempts to protect the industry. The TRS has already decided to include the measures for the benefit of film industry in the TRS manifesto for GHMC elections, which is to be released in a day or two, he said. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar was also present.

SECTT CONSTRUCTION

Revanth slams Javadekar for keeping mum

The Malkajgiri MP says that the Union Minister had not taken any action on the issue of Secretariat construction on the banks of Hussainsagar Lake, and has been dodging the matter as the Minister is scared of being caught before the National Green Tribunal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS leader and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy on Sunday sought an explanation from Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Srisaillam hydel power project accident incident. He said that the pregnant women residing in and around the power project had abortions due to the impact of the pollution caused following the fire accident.

He said that the Union Minister had not taken any action on the issue although he had submitted a personal representation to Javadekar and urged him to initiate action on the issue. He also said that the Union Minister had not taken any action on the issue of the construction of State secretariat by violating existing environmental laws. He said that the permission of Union Environmental Ministry was mandatory to take up any kind of construction in and around Hussain Sagar lake area. He said that the Supreme Court had also given clear orders to not to build any kind of permanent constructions in and around the lake.

He said that he had lodged a complaint with the Union Minister on the issue of construction of the State secretariat complex and sub-



mitted all kinds of evidences. Reddy said that the Union Minister had not taken any action on the issue so far and added that the he has been dodging the matter as he was scared of being caught before the National Green Tribunal, which had asked the Environmental Ministry to file its counter in the issue while responding to a petition filed by Revanth Reddy.

False propaganda by TRS will not fetch it votes: Javadekar

The Union Minister says that privatisation of LIC and Railways is a misleading campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister Prakash Javadekar dismissed allegations that the Centre was trying to privatise the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India and Indian Railways. Responding to questions while releasing a charge sheet against the TRS government here on Sunday, he said such false propaganda would no longer help those making such narratives. Regarding the issue of communal violence, he said there were no such incidents in Ahmedabad for the last 12 years. Similarly, no such incidents have been witnessed in about 100 civic bodies across the country headed by



the saffron party. The party is taking along all sections of people in those places, he said.

For another question, he said religion was a different issue and radicalisation was a different phenomenon. He dismissed that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was targeting any section of the society. Regarding a recent law passed in Kerala regarding regulating the social media posts, he said that it exposes the real face of the left.

PDS rice worth ₹10 lakh seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

PDS rice worth Rs 10 lakh and two lorries were seized at Tallada mandal in the district on Sunday.

Wyra ACP Satyanarayana informed the media that acting on a tip-off, Tallada Circle Inspector Vasanth Kumar, Sub-Inspector Tirupathi Reddy and staff conducted vehicle inspection

on the main road at Reddygudem and found two lorries carrying a combined load of 410 quintals of PDS rice.

The lorry drivers - Thota Ravi Kumar and Bitra Pulla Rao of Jaggaiahpet in Andhra Pradesh - were taken into custody. During questioning, they revealed that the rice was being transported to Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, the ACP informed.

Agri Minister lashes out at JSP, BJP

Calls the Jana Sena Party chief, Pawan Kalyan, a leader without army and the Sena without soldiers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AGRICULTURE Minister S Niranjan Reddy called the Jana Sena Party chief, Pawan Kalyan, a leader without army. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Niranjan Reddy said that the Jana Sena chief was a leader without army and the Sena was without soldiers. He lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders for indulging in abusive attacks against Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

The TRS leader said that the Modi government has all failures during its tenure. The decisions like note ban and Goods and Services Tax were not the correct decisions and this was the opinion of the experts, said Niranjan Reddy.

The BJP had not provided a single rupee towards flood relief in Maharashtra and was stopping the Telangana government when it was providing the same to the citizens of Hyderabad, said Reddy.

Cong accuses KTR of spreading lies on metro rail spending

Former minister Mohammad Ali Shabbir challenges KTR for open debate on Hyderabad Development Report

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir accused the Municipal Administration Minister, KT Rama Rao, of misleading people by making false claims with regard to development of Hyderabad, especially on Hyderabad Metro Rail Project.

Addressing the media persons on Sunday, Shabbir Ali said that the foundation stone for HMRL was laid in October 2005 when he was Hyderabad district In-charge Minister in Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy’s cabinet.

“KTR has made a false claim on the Hyderabad Development Report, which he released in Telangana Bhavan on November 20, stating that the TRS government had spent Rs 17,290 crore on the project. This claim is not only false, but insane and totally misleading. The State govern-



Senior Congress leader Mohd Shabbir Ali addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday

ment holds only 10 per cent stake in the project and it has no financial commitment. Its only job was to procure land for the metro stations and the track. Since the beginning of the project in 2005, the State government had spent about Rs 2,700 crore. The Central government was to bear 10 per cent of the project cost and as against the revised project cost of Rs 18,800 crore, the Centre has only paid Rs 1,200 crore

and the remaining Rs 600 crore are yet to be released,” he said.

Shabbir Ali said that the original estimated cost of the project was Rs 14,500 crore and it was revised to Rs 18,800 crore in November 2017.

He challenged KTR for an open debate on Hyderabad Metro Rail Project and offered to quit politics if KTR proved that the TRS government had spent Rs 17,290 crore on the project.

People’s singer P Santosh dies

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KATTANGUR (NALGONDA):

FAMOUS people’s singer and artiste Pailam Santosh (43) passed away in Nalgonda on Sunday. Santosh had been unwell for the past few

months and died while he was being shifted to Government hospital in Nalgonda. His body was kept in the government hospital mortuary for postmortem. He was native of Dugnelli village of Kattangur mandal in the district.

Telangana Inti party President Cheruku



Pailam Santosh

Sudhakar paid tributes to Santosh and recalled his association with him.

It may be noted that Pailam Santosh inspired many people through his songs and dance during separate Telangana agitation.

LEGAL CIRCLES

Law on religious freedom: Love all; shun jihad, conversions

DR H C UPADHYAY

THE universal and undeniable truth is that love is blind so also the lovers. History is replete with examples of such ‘blind’ lovers. Right from Romeo – Juliette to Laila-Majnu and Shirin-Farhad all were really blind in love and the whole world salutes them! So far so good, but the problem arises when one of the ‘lovers’ (usually the girl) is really blind in love while her male counter-part is not. In fact, her counter-part, usually a Muslim is cunning, calculating and with ‘jihad’ mind-set and with glib talk or by force or blackmail sexually exploits the girl. Finally, the girl is converted to Islam and the Nikah or marriage is performed between the love-blind Hindu girl and the well-planned Muslim man indoctrinated with Jihadi ideology by Mullas and Maulvis. Once the girl is trapped into wedlock the husband and his relatives show their true colours. They make her life miserable by treating her like a slave and sex-toy. Usually the end of this sordid drama is horrific, once a love-blind girl either commits suicide or she is just killed!

This is not an imaginary story-script written for a drama or a film. Indeed,

this is the stark reality. In the recent times, it has become a societal menace. While there are a number of factors that ‘lure’, ‘motivate’ or ‘force’ a girl to fall prey to the evil designs of love-jihadis, its recurrence in an alarming number is certainly a cause of worry, particularly when fanatic Islamic groups, including both home-grown as well as of foreign origin are hell-bent to shatter the secular fabric of our nation by inciting, misguiding or alluring the gullible Muslim youth in the name of Islam and Quran.

In fact, those who have really studied and understood Quran say that the book is misquoted or wrongly interpreted by some of the politically assisted Mullas and Maulavis with the oblique motive of dividing a harmonious society. The Islamic scholars explain that there are three kinds of jihad (meaning, struggle) viz. one against the self, two, against the Satan and three, against an open enemy. First kind of jihad is a spiritual exercise by oneself for achieving purity of thought and behavior while second one is against the Satanic elements which disturb the personal and social harmony. It is also called, the greater jihad. The third type of jihad is against



an open enemy who is hell-bent to destroy the believers of Islam. This is called, the lesser jihad and it is permitted to be carried out for a limited purpose to get over the enemy. Once this is done, there shall be no ill-will or revengeful attitude. Quran (22:41) specifically commands Muslims to engage in this lesser jihad to protect “churches, synagogues, temples and mosques from attack.” Again in 2:194 it ordains the Muslims to “fight them until there is no persecution and religion is freely professed for God.”

Thus, it is very clear that in Quran there is no concept of “love jihad.” Further, there is no religious mandate in any religious book for the forceful or deceitful conversions. It is just a ploy to foment communal disturbances in the country in the name of religion. Therefore, truly speaking the menaces

called, love-Jihad or conversions are criminal offences and even the existing criminal laws are good enough to deal with the offenders. However, if the state governments of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana or Uttar Pradesh want a law dealing with the love-jihad and conversions as an additional safety valve for protecting peace and social harmony, there is nothing to worry about and all the political hype is misplaced. In short, the Constitution of India permits a State to go ahead with such a proposed law and no sane person would prefer to oppose the move.

SC ON ‘DEFAULT’ BAIL

The Supreme Court has reiterated that the bail, including one which is granted on default of the prosecution to submit the charge sheet within a stipulated time frame, can be cancelled by the high court.

A three-judge bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R Shah in their judgement dated November 20 in a criminal appeal No. 801 of 2020 filed by one, Venkatesan Balasubramanian against the Intelligence Officer, D.R.I., Bangalore after quoting a catena of judgements ob-

served, “The proviso to Section 167 itself clarifies that every person released on bail under section 167 (2) shall be deemed to be so released under Chapter XXXIII. Therefore, if a person is illegally or erroneously released on bail under Section 167 (2), his bail can be cancelled by passing appropriate order under Section 439 (2), Cr.P.C....”

In the instant case the Bombay High Court had erroneously granted bail to the appellant before the apex court as it was not informed about his involvement in a related matter of NDPS Act pending in a Hyderabad court.

WIFE’S RIGHT UNDER RTI

Relying on a ruling of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in Sunita Jain Vs. Pawan Kumar Jain & Ors, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has held that a wife has a right to know the salary details of her husband from the employer/ income tax authorities and directed the Income Tax authorities to provide to the appellant the generic details of the taxable income / gross income of her husband.

The order granting much relief to the estranged wives whose cases for Maintenance and Alimony are drag-

ging on for years together for want of the substantiated proof of their husband’s income was delivered in Rahmat Bano Vs. The CPIO, O/o the Income Tax Officer, Ward No.3 (4), Jodhpur, Rajasthan on November 6.

BRICS LEGAL SUMMIT

The VII BRICS Legal Forum Summit was held online on November 18 and 19. It was hosted by the Association of Lawyers of Russia. Bar Association of India (BAI), one of the founder member of the organization established in the year 2014, also participated.

The Forum serves as an open, permanent platform for legal cooperation and professional exchange of experiment and ideas between lawyers of BRICS countries, promotion of ‘legal diplomacy’, rapprochement of legal communities of the member States, legal theory and practice exchange, use of law as an instrument for economic cooperation and social development of certain countries, strengthening the rule of law and improving of international law.

According to Prashant Kumar, President, BAI the next summit will be held in India next year.

ATP Finals
DeciderIt'll be Thiem-Medvedev,
not Djokovic-Nadal

LONDON

INSTEAD of No 1 Novak Djokovic vs No 2 Rafael Nadal for the ATP Finals trophy, it'll be No 3 Dominic Thiem against No 4 Daniil Medvedev.

Nadal had won 71 matches in a row when grabbing the opening set, and he served for the victory in Saturday's semifinals when leading 5-4 in the second set. But Medvedev broke at love there and came all the way back to win 3-6 7-6(4) 6-3. That came after Thiem frittered away four match points in his semifinal against Djokovic because he was "tight and nervous" during a second-set tiebreaker.

Thiem gathered himself and eventually reeled off seven of the match's last eight points after trailing 4-0 in the last tiebreaker, winning 7-5 6-7(10) 7-6(5). "What he did from 0-4 in the third-set tiebreaker was just unreal," said Djokovic, a 17-time Grand Slam champion. "I don't think I played bad. ... He just crushed the ball and everything went in."

Thiem ended Djokovic's bid for a record-tying sixth ATP Finals trophy, while Medvedev prevented Nadal from continuing to pursue the most significant title the 20-time major champ hasn't won. Nadal seemed on his way to the final when he reeled off four consecutive games in the second set to give himself the chance to serve for the match. He surprisingly stumbled there.

Once he was back in the match, Medvedev took advantage, dominating the ensuing tiebreaker with the help of a shanked lob winner, a forehand winner that claimed a 26-stroke exchange and a leaping backhand that drew a netted forehand. Nadal couldn't shake that off, dropping the match's last three games as he serve-and-volleyed more than usual, sliced his backhand more than usual

and made forehand errors more than usual.

Medvedev had been 0-3 against Nadal, including a five-set loss in the 2019 US Open final, and the lanky 24-year-old Russian's top-notch serve, capable backhand and willingness to hang in long baseline rallies provided Saturday's breakthrough.

A year ago, Medvedev went 0-3 in round-robin play at the ATP Finals, while Thiem was the runner-up to Stefanos Tsitsipas. Whoever wins on the indoor hard court — where things will be quiet because spectators are banned due to the coronavirus pandemic — will be the tournament's sixth different champion over the past six years, the longest such stretch since 1974-79.

It was the first time since 2004 that the top four players in the rankings filled the four semifinal slots for the ATP Finals. Djokovic, already assured of finishing the year ranked No 1 for a record-tying sixth time, was trying to match Roger Federer's mark of six ATP Finals trophies.

In the second set against Djokovic, Thiem's ace put him ahead 6-5 in the tiebreaker, one point from victory. But Djokovic saved that initial chance with a 127 mph service winner. Thiem's next opportunity to win came at 7-6, but he double-faulted. "I was, like, so tight in my whole body," Thiem said.

The third was at 9-8, when he pushed a down-the-line forehand wide. At 10-9, Djokovic erased No. 4 with a forehand that landed right on a line. That began a three-

point run by Djokovic to steal the set. But Thiem regrouped and his 300th career tour-level victory made him only the second man with at least five wins each against the Big Three of Djokovic (5-7 career mark), Federer (5-2) and Nadal (6-9).

Andy Murray is the other. "If you beat these guys," Thiem said, "it gives you a huge boost of confidence."

Note:
M a t e
Pavic and
Bruno Soares
clinched the
year-end No 1
team ranking for
men's doubles
when the other
contenders, Ra-

jeev Ram and Joe Salisbury, lost in Saturday's semifinals to Jurgen Melzer and Edouard Roger-Vasselin. (AP)

Dominic Thiem

Daniil Medvedev



BAMBOLIM (GOA)

A fresh start will be the mantra for both Hyderabad FC and Odisha FC when the two sides clash in the Hero Indian Super League, here on Monday.

Both teams had seasons to forget the last time. Hyderabad ended a miserable campaign in which they lost 12 games and conceded 39 goals. And while Odisha did manage to do the double over their opponents, they too did not fare too well overall, letting in 31 goals. But these stats are just a number for Odisha coach Stuart Baxter.

"That's history and it doesn't help anybody. We've got two new teams now. They've got new players and we also got new players so things have changed at both ends. We will be playing a new Hyderabad," Baxter stressed.

Baxter has attractive options in attack, with the signing of Brazilian striker Diego Mauricio and the capture of Marcelinho

Hyderabad, Odisha seek fresh start



Hyderabad FC players prior to a practice session

from Hyderabad — both players capable of changing the game in an instant. But the English coach reiterated that his game plan involved a lot more than just relying on individual players to produce moments of magic.

"I think relying on players is risky. You've got to be able to play without (depending on) anybody if you can. In football, there are no comfort levels. Your job is to stretch those levels."

Hyderabad finished at the bot-

tom of the table last season, recording just two wins. Part of the reason for this was their poor start to the season that saw them lose four out of their first five games.

New coach Manuel Marquez Roca will be keen to avoid a repeat and get off to a good start. "Winning the first game is important," he said. "Although given a choice, I would take a loss in the first game if it meant winning the remaining 19."

The Spaniard has a youthful

squad at his disposal and was pleased with the potential of his young guns. "Guys like Rohit Danu, Liston Colaco and Akash Mishra have a lot of potential. I'm sure that they can continue improving and become huge assets for Hyderabad in the future," he said.

Odisha will miss defender Jacob Tratt and Jerry Mawihmingthanga for the clash while Hyderabad will be without the services of Francisco Sandaza. (PTI)

Igor Angulo late brace
helps Goa share spoils
with Bengaluru

MARGAO

BENGALURU FC and a new-look FC Goa shared the honours after a 2-2 draw in the third match of the 2020-21 Indian Super League (ISL) season held at Fatorda Stadium in Margao on Sunday.

Bengaluru FC were off to a formidable start with their first goal coming off from Cleiton Silva in the 27th minute and ended the first half 1-0. Keeping the momentum going Bengaluru FC consolidated their lead with Juana scoring a goal in the 57th minute.

Struggling two goals to nil, FC Goa was never ready to give up and their perseverance paid off. Igor Angulo reduced the lead with a goal in the 66th minute and then three minutes later he netted another goal that fetched them the much needed equaliser.



FCG and BFC captains, Edu Bedia and Sunil Chhetri respectively vie for the ball during a ISL 7 match at the JLN Stadium, Fatorda on Sunday

India's athletics
high performance
director Hermann
resigns

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S athletics high performance director Volker Hermann on Sunday announced that he has resigned from the position. Hermann said in a statement that he put on his Facebook page that he had resigned from the position "three weeks ago" after he was convinced that he could no longer "meet the self-imposed expectations" that came from being the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) high performance director.

The AFI is yet to make an official response to the development. "After one and a half fruitful and inspiring years in India, the day has come when I could not any longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role of AFI's high performance director, which is why I resigned from my position three weeks ago," said Hermann in his statement.

"I believe that athletics in India has a great future ahead of it. It requires a conducive and likewise sustainable infrastructure to support its countless talented athletes and coaches. It also needs players with a strong, confident, and independent mindset to succeed at world stage."

Hermann said that he is looking forward to the further development of the athletes in the country. "I have made a lot of close friends, making my stint an unforgettable time, which has enriched my life in many different ways and makes me looking back on a very positive note. I might change my perspective, but I am still looking forward to watch the further development of our athletes and coaches and their coming successes," he said. (IANS)

Tendulkar's 98 against Pak in 2003
WC one of his best, says Inzamam

NEW DELHI

INZAMAM-ul-Haq believes Sachin Tendulkar's 98-run knock against Pakistan in the 2003 World Cup was one of the "best innings" played by the former Indian batsman during his stellar career.

In the group-stage match played on March 1, 2003 at Centurion in South Africa, the Pakistan team failed to defend a target of 274. India rode on Tendulkar's 98 to chase down the target with more than four overs to spare.

"I have seen Sachin play a lot but the way he batted in that match; I have never seen him play like that before. The way he played against our fast bowlers in those conditions was superb. I think he scored 98 before getting out to Shoaib Akhtar," Inzamam told India offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin on his YouTube show 'DRS with Ash'.

"I feel that innings of Sachin was one of his best. He broke all the pressure that existed. He played a top-quality innings against genuine quality fast bowlers like ours. The way he hit those boundaries, the pressure got released on the batsmen who came after him. If someone were to ask Sachin, he too would absolutely love that innings of his," he added.

Inzamam also said Pakistan were confident about winning that game after scoring 273 as they had a very good bowling line-up consisting of Wasim



Akram, Waqar Younis and Akhtar.

"Our bowling line-up consisted of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, and Shoaib Akhtar and the conditions were favouring the fast bowlers. The match was being played at Centurion in South Africa. So we felt that we had put up a pretty good score," said Inzamam.

Earlier, Akhtar had said that the 2003 World Cup loss against India was the "most disappointing match" of his entire career. "The most disappointing match for me in my entire career was the 2003 World Cup match against India at Centurion. We had failed to defend a target of 274 despite having a very good bowling line-up," Akhtar had earlier said.

In his stellar career that spanned over two decades, Tendulkar scored 100 centuries across Tests and ODIs -- a record that still stands. In 463 ODIs, Tendulkar scored 18,426 runs, including 49 tons, and in Tests, he tallied 15,921, including 51 centuries. In his lone T20I appearance which came against South Africa in 2006, he scored 10 runs. (IANS)

‘India without Kohli will be like
Australia without Smith, Warner’

SYDNEY

INDIA without captain Virat Kohli in Tests will be akin to Australia without Steve Smith and David Warner, according to former Australia fast bowler Geoff Lawson.

India will be missing Kohli in upcoming Test series in Australia as the 32-year-old right hander will return home for the birth of his child after the first Test.

"India without Virat Kohli will be like Australia without Smith and Warner. It's not just the runs he makes, but the way he lifts the psyche of the whole group," Lawson wrote in his column for the Sydney Morning Herald.

With 7,240 runs at an average of 53.62, Kohli is the highest run scorer in the Indian squad for the Tests and is ranked in the ICC rankings for the longest format of the game behind Smith.

India had won the previous Test series they played in Australia with the hosts missing Smith and Warner and still reel-



"India also face a selection dilemma when skipper Virat Kohli departs for home for the birth of his first child following the opening Test. This creates both a big hole in the Indian batting order and an opportunity for one of their talented young players to make a name for himself. What was already shaping up as an exciting tussle now has the added stimulus of crucial selection decisions. The result could well come down to who is the bravest set of selectors."

—Ian Chappell, former Australia captain

ing from the aftermath of the 2018 ball tampering scandal.

Since the duo came back, however, Australia have experienced a reversal in fortune culminating in them pipping India at the top of the ICC Test Championship earlier this month.

Lawson said that Australia's biggest strength now compared to what they had before the 2018/19 Test series against India is that they have options. "Australia have risen on the back of drawing away with England and then beating a

well-below-strength New Zealand and thumping a classic Pakistan at home last summer. And as the international season looms, Australia finds itself in an unusual situation: there are options for batting spots," said Lawson.

"Indian cricketers will be expecting the unexpected. They will be a handful, given they are defending the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, won on Australian soil for the first time two years ago, and their fast bowling group continues to grow in stature," he said. (IANS)