

Trust, Reliability & Service
Synonymous with **Kapil Chits**

KAPIL CHITS

Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com

KAPIL CHITS

SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL



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

● Follow @ [/thehansindia](https://twitter.com/thehansindia) | [/thehansindia](https://www.thehansindia.com) | [/thehansindia](https://www.thehansindia.com) | [/thehansindia](https://www.thehansindia.com) | [/thehansindia](https://www.thehansindia.com) ●

WINDOWS



Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat with his wife Madhulika and GRSE Chairman & MD, Rear Admiral VK Saxena (Retd), during the launch of GRSE-built first Project 17A stealth frigate 'Himgiri' in Kolkata on Monday

High levels of preparation underway on land, sea and air: Rawat

NEW DELHI: Indian armed forces will leave no stone unturned to safeguard the nation be it at land, air or the ocean, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said on Monday. The comments were made amid India's standoff with the neighbouring China in Ladakh. "We are in a standoff situation in Ladakh and based on that there is some development activity which has been ongoing in Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Every nation will continue to prepare for ensuring its security based on their strategic interest," Rawat said. o confirmed that "high levels of preparation" are underway on land, sea and air as "China attempts to change the status quo on Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the northern border."

US health workers get first Covid vaccine shots

NEW YORK: The largest vaccination campaign in US history got under way on Monday as healthcare workers started receiving the first doses of Covid-19 vaccine. "First Vaccine Administered. Congratulations USA! Congratulations WORLD!" President Donald Trump tweeted. A nurse in New York City was among the first people to receive the early dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine on Monday morning.

India to set up regional climate centre for Himalayas

NEW DELHI: India is planning to establish a regional climate centre for the Himalayan mountain region which will not only provide weather-related services within the country but also to its neighbours, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said on Monday. Mohapatra said the work for establishing such a centre has already begun and talks are also on with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). China is also building a similar regional climate centre on its side of the Himalayas, he said. Addressing a webinar on 'Weather and Climate Services over Mountains Region', Mohapatra said India has hilly terrains -- the eastern ghats, western ghats along the east and the west coast and the Myanmar hills in the northeast.



FARMERS OBSERVE FAST

Govt ready for talks: Tomar

'We are engaging with farmers to decide on next date of talks'

NEW DELHI

AS farmers intensified their agitation against the Centre's three farm laws and observed a day-long fast on Monday, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Union government is engaging with farmer leaders to decide on the next date of talks.

"The meeting will definitely happen. We are engaging with farmers," Tomar said. The government is ready for discussion anytime. The farmer leaders have to "decide and convey" when they are ready for the next meeting, he added.

Meanwhile, Farmers raised slogans outside the offices of district commissioners and took out protest marches in Punjab and Haryana on Monday, following a nationwide call given by their unions against the new central laws.

In Punjab, protests were held in several districts including Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur, Barnala, Bathinda, Moga, Faridkot, Ferozepur and Tarn Taran. In Haryana, protests were reported from Fatehabad, Jind, Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Gur-



4th group of farmers back farm laws: Govt

NEW DELHI

AT least 10 organisations representing farmers in several States met Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to lend support to the three farm laws on Monday, on a day

as many as 40 farmer leaders of the United Farmers Front began their day-long hunger strike. This is the fourth group of farmers who have extended support to the laws in the last fortnight.

Continued on Page 5



Members of various farmer unions participate in a protest against the Centre's farm reform laws, outside the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office in Amritsar on Monday



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses during a day-long hunger strike to support farmers, who are protesting against the new farm laws, in New Delhi on Monday

Fast in support of farmers: CM

NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday appealed to the people to fast wherever they are in support of protesting farmers, and asserted that farmers will win in the end.

Arvind Kejriwal is holding a one-day fast in support of the farmers' protest on Monday.

The Chief Minister also urged his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) volunteers, support-

ers, as well as the people of the country to join the farmers' agitation.

"Fasting is sacred. Wherever you are, fast for our farmer brothers. Pray to God for the success of their struggle. In the end, farmers will definitely win," Sisodia tweeted. Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said he is observing the fast at the party office with other party members.

"Annadaata of the country is on hunger strike demand-

ing the withdrawal of the three laws of the central government for the sake of saving his daily bread. In support of the demand of farmers, today I am also on a fast with all my colleagues in the Aam Aadmi Party office," Sisodia tweeted.

Apart from Sisodia, AAP ministers and MLAs, including Gopal Rai, Satyendar Jain, Atishi and Raghav Chadha, also observed fast at the party office here in support of farmers.

Narrow escape for HP Guv Dattatreya

HANS NEWS SERVICE
YADADRI-BHONGIRI

HIMACHAL Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya had a narrow escape when the car in which he was travelling went off the road



as the driver lost control of the vehicle on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway at Kitapuram village of Choutuppal mandal in Yadadri- Bhongir district on Monday.

Continued on Page 5

Jagan to meet Shah & Modi

AP CM's visit to Delhi comes close on the heels of KCR's visit

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be leaving for New Delhi on Tuesday evening to meet with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. This visit comes close on the heels of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's visit, which has led to political speculation. He is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

Several issues are pending with the Centre as far

as AP is concerned and the Chief Minister is expected to reiterate his demands for release of pending funds of Polavaram and also urge the Home Minister to accept the revised increased estimates of the Polavaram project. A proposal to this effect was submitted to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat by State Irrigation Minister Anil Kumar Yadav during his recent visit. But the Centre rejected the proposal. Jagan is likely to take up this issue with Amit Shah.

Continued on Page 5



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy inspected the works of the Polavaram project on Monday

Gmail, YouTube, other Google services suffer global outage

NEW DELHI

GOOGLE services abruptly went down on Monday evening, impacting hundreds of users. Among the services that were disrupted include Gmail, Google Search, YouTube, and Drive. The latest outage, which seems to be more intensive than the last one, seemingly started around 5 pm IST on Monday. Downtetector, the website that tracks web outages, reported over 40,000 outage cases from around the world nearly 10 minutes after the outage began. YouTube and Gmail seem to have been worst hit globally, causing an uproar on Twitter about how Google services have left them high and dry especially on the first day of the week. However, after some hours of outage, Gmail has started working and emails are also coming. However, Gmail has shown a warning when users are logging back in. It says, "Gmail is temporarily unable to access your Contacts. You may experience issues while this persists."

CHINA LEAKS

From Pfizer to foreign offices, a story of Chinese Communist infiltration

NEW DELHI

IT was suspected for long. Now, leaked documents have confirmed that China is using its Communist party workers to infiltrate consulates of foreign countries and multinational companies of repute -- including the coronavirus vaccine maker Pfizer. These come from the reports published in the Australian media.

Leaked documents, the Australian media reported, show that the Communist Party of China (CPC) operatives have infiltrated at least 10 consulates in Chinese commercial hub Shanghai. Those having been infiltrated, in what is being said as a coordinated effort by the Chinese communist party for over a decade, included the consulates of the UK, the US, India, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Italy and South Africa.

According to the reports, these recruitments were made through the Shanghai Foreign Agency Service Department. Among the MNCs infiltrated by the Chinese communist party are coronavirus vaccine



CHINA CONSTRUCTING HELIPORT IN AKSAI CHIN

NEW DELHI

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been continuously upgrading its infrastructure in occupied Eastern Ladakh since the last nine months. Satellite images over Tibet and East Turkestan (Xinjiang), especially along the Indian borders, indicate that China has been rushing to up-scale its military facilities in Eastern Ladakh since the last three months amid the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the

region. In fact, China had planned an ingress into Eastern Ladakh as early as August 2019 as indicated by satellite images.

The heliport construction is opposite India's Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) airbase, and at 16,700 feet, is extremely close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the 255-km Darbuk-Shyok-DBO road, and one of the reasons that sparked the standoff in early May this year.

Continued on Page 5

The Australian has published reports from a leaked database to say that the Chinese Communist Party has been infiltrating the foreign offices of other countries and big corporate houses

maker Pfizer and airlines such as Boeing. There have also been leaked documents about China's repressive policies in Xinjiang. The documents leaked to an Australian publication by a whistleblower contain information about around 20 lakh CPC members. Moreover, scores of "operatives" of the Communist Party of China were found to be in various American universities in July when Houston's Chinese consulate was closed over alleged targeting of the US energy firms.

The Communist Party of China is the ruling dispensation of the country, where no other political party is allowed to govern.

Continued on Page 5

Centre plans to vaccinate 30 crore population

NEW DELHI

VACCINATING 100-200 people in each session per day, monitoring them for 30 minutes after administering the shots for any adverse event and allowing only one beneficiary at a time are among the guidelines issued by the Centre for the Covid-19 inoculation drive.

According to the guidelines issued to States, the Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) system will be used to track en-

listed beneficiaries for the vaccination and anti-coronavirus vaccines on a real-time basis.

At the vaccination site, only pre-registered beneficiaries will be vaccinated in accordance with the prioritisation, and there will be no provision for on-spot registrations.

The States have been asked, as far as possible, to allocate the vaccine from one manufacturer to a district to avoid mixing of different Covid-19 vaccines in the field. As per the 'Covid-



- Govt issues guidelines for vaccination drive
- Vaccination of 100-200 people in each session per day
- Only pre-registered beneficiaries will be vaccinated
- Co-WIN system to be used to track enlisted beneficiaries
- Vaccine only for healthcare workers in the first phase
- Later to frontline workers and persons above 50 years

19 Vaccine Operational Guidelines', all measures should be taken to avoid exposing the vaccine carrier, vaccine vials or ice packs to direct sunlight, the document stated.

Vaccines and diluents should be kept inside the vaccine carrier with the lid closed until a beneficiary comes to the centre for vaccination. "There may not be vaccine vial monitors (VVM) and Date of Expiry on the label of Covid-19 vaccine, this should not discourage vac-

cinators from using the vaccine. At the end of the session, the vaccine carrier with all ice packs and unopened vaccine vials should be sent back to the distributing cold chain point," the guidelines said. States have been asked to implement an integrated 360-degree comprehensive advocacy communication and social mobilisation strategy to address the challenges surrounding vaccine rollout progress and benefits.

Continued on Page 5

Womenia

Explore power of yoga to soothe mind, body & soul

ASKARI JAFFER

Arunayoga Training and Research Institute is surrounded by lush greenery - a unique and serene place to practice yoga and meditation.

Aruna Devi shares that Yoga is not just a science. It's a philosophy and a way of life. Yoga was developed to achieve harmony between the mind, body and soul on the path to divine enlightenment. Yoga has a practical benefit of strengthening immunity, of preventing and curing many diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure, and alleviating chronic pains caused by physical injuries and other health problems.

Aruna with an idea to set up International Yoga University in future to offer diploma courses, graduate and post-graduate degrees by following our ancient tradition of teaching, Gurukul system of education.

She follows ashtanga means 'eight limbs' and encompasses a yogic lifestyle. Ashtanga is nothing but a form of traditional yoga.

Aruna shares, "Due to my Great Grand Mother I am inspired to do yoga from my childhood. From my childhood onwards I was inspired my great grandmother - Yogini Sadamma, (Siddha yogini) and grandfather Nekkanti Ramadasu from Achanta, (West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh). For freshers what is our advice is don't fear by hearing the very word Yoga. Right from the birth we are in the journey of yoga, even though we are doing yoga in one way or other we are not aware of it."

Siddha yogini Sadamma was a well-known Spiritual and Yoga

Arunayoga Foundation, led by a veteran Yoga Guru Aruna Devi with over three decades of experience, wealth of knowledge and wisdom, has trained over 2,000 Yoga teachers and numerous students from all over the world since 1990



Guru from South India during the 1940s and taught Yoga to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

"My goal is to establish International yoga and Naturopathy university. I am struggling to achieve it from the beginning of my career. I will be very happy and thankful if some Philanthropist and Govt would come to my aid & help me in fulfilling this great cause which is very beneficial to the people," concludes Aruna.

COURSES

Diploma
200 hour Yoga Teacher Training Course is all about taking your practice to its next level, where you gain the ability to share and help others. Completion of 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training

Course also gives you the eligibility to apply for the designation of RYT-200* and also the eligibility to enrol in 300 hour Yoga Teacher Training Course; the combination of these two courses are called 500 hour Yoga Teacher Training Course.

Advanced Diploma in Yoga (300 Hours)

One reason why you would want to do the 300-hour Yoga Teacher Training is simply because you have discovered one layer of Yoga after your 200 hours YTT and would like to know what lies beneath the surface. Yoga is a science that has unending possibilities because the more you scratch the more enlightenment you receive, and you realize that it is you who holds the key to living a fulfilled life. The second and more practical

aspect for you to take up this course is that you will gain more experience of Yoga so you can become a more experienced and knowledgeable Yoga teacher.

PG Diploma in Yoga (500 Hours)

500-hour yoga teacher training is structured to advance and reinforce your basic learning and practice of yoga. You will be instructed in the teaching methodology for Asana (physical postures), pranayama (breath control) and Dhyana (meditation). Classes in these three and other fields will build on your existing skills in the various postures, pranayama and meditation techniques which will be a step forward in you becoming a registered yoga teacher. As a yoga teacher you will need specific advanced skills and so the 500 hours YTT is designed to fulfil those needs.

Establish the correct hair care routine

Invest in your hair, it is the crown you will always wear' The hair cells are the fastest growing in the body, yet also easily damaged if not provided with the nourishment they need. Alongside a healthy diet, an impeccable hair-care routine is a key to maintaining glossy, happy and healthy hair. No matter what the texture or style of your hair, the following steps prove as essentials and must be followed through consistently to ensure hair health.

Cleanse & condition

While the sulphate in your shampoo creates a foamy lather giving the illusion of squeaky-clean hair, it may in fact be doing your hair a disservice. Sulphate strips the scalp of dirt and grime, however, can also take away the hair's natural oils, leading it to become dry and lacklustre. Opt for a sulphate-free variant to ensure clean and unperturbed hair. Follow this up with a deep moisture conditioner. A deep conditioner acts as a binding product, locking in nutrients that ensure one's mane is nourished and healthy. Sealing in the cuticles and locking in moisture, correct cleansing and conditioning is an optimum requirement.

Detangle

Combing the hair regularly increases blood circulation to the scalp, thereafter, nourishes the roots and hair follicles. Doing this helps shift the scalp's natural oil to the strands of the hair, giving it the nourishment, it requires. Use a wide-toothed comb instead of a hard brush to detangle the hair without breakage. Softly comb through the hair, do not tug at it as if



fighting with your hair. Do not forget to clean and sanitize your combs and brushes!

Moisturize and hydrate

Moisturisation locks in the water content in the hair, while giving it the hydration it needs to remain shiny and lustrous. Argan Oil is an ingredient seeping deep into the scalp, giving the hair rich antioxidants, damage protection and a silky sheen. An argan oil keratin serum or leave-in conditioner (a generous amount) would provide the hair an essential oil of moisture.

Style & protect

Excessive styling and heat application can prove detrimental to the hair. To curb this, use styling products that contain less alcohol and a thermal protector to protect from heat damage.

Treat with keratin & deep conditioning

Keratin is a protective protein forming the hair, skin and nails- supplements of which can be incorporated in a treatment leading to hair strengthening. Undergo this treatment followed by deep conditioning every 3-4 months to ensure frizz-free, healthy hair.

Indulge in a scalp routine every fortnight

A scalp routine is equally important as a regular and effective skincare routine. Excess sebum build-up, clogged hair follicles, grime, hair thinning can all be taken care of with a befitting routine suiting your hair. Find serums, oils and exfoliants comprising of ingredients that align well with your hair type- and pamper your scalp.



Festive makeovers of your abode can add a unique charm to your festivities and celebrations. With Christmas around the corner, decorate your home and recreate the Christmas and year-end warmth without breaking the bank. Entrepreneur Suruchi Khanna, Founder of Sana Furnishings by Suruchi Khanna, Gives you the tips to give your home a Christmas makeover.

With not many days left for Christmas, here's how you can prep up your home for the end of year

Themed furnishings

Christmas decorations becomes super fun when you place cushions around with sparkles and personalised messages. You can also add

TIPS FOR A CHRISTMAS HOME MAKEOVER

red and white colour socks filled with candies to your decor. How about adding wind chimes with the soft sound of jingle bells?

Add sparkle

Christmas and glitter go hand in hand. You can get glitter from candleholders, pinecones, swine glasses or using sparkly ribbon as decor elements around the Christmas trees.

Wrap some gifts

Presence of wrapped presents around makes your house feel like Christmas. Simple boxes packed nicely with an oversised ribbon and plain paper is a classic look for Christmas decorations.

Christmas colour

It's super important to play with colour for the getting festive decor right. Let the colour code be red and white for your furnishings, crockery or little more fun elements spread around.

Christmas tree

Right from trimming the branches, to adding the trail of fairy lights around to adding the snow on the tree with gifts packed placed under the tree to topping it up with a bow, Christmas tree decoration is the most important element and can bring that festive vibe to your interiors.

Personalise

Everyone has different prefer-

ences and enjoy different things, but Christmas is all about bright colours especially red and white. Some may enjoy glitter and shimmer in their textiles. Depending on what catches your eye, you can match all textiles according to your taste. Colour combinations in the Christmas is the key this season.

Flowers and fragrances

Fragrances can be decided depending on the textiles in your room and what helps lift and bring up the mood and flowers can really help amp up the place and add some life to it, giving your home a great makeover for the season.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Sunny Leone supports vegan fashion; actor-entrepreneur talks about shifting to vegan shopping

It is widely known that Sunny Leone is an animal lover. She is also known to raise her voice against cruelty meted out to animals. She has often taken to social media to champion the cause of animal donation. Wanting to make a change and create a more compassionate world, she began campaigning for PETA



ally noticed how I shop as well," she says as she stresses on how she has given up on leather products.

Sunny's exclusive make-up line, Star Struck, which she launched in 2018, also boasts of being one hundred percent cruelty free. Urging everyone to shift to a cost-effi-

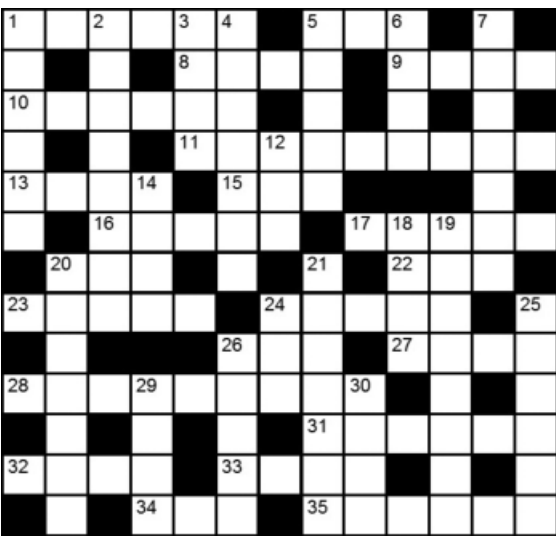
(People

For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals) eight years ago. A vegetarian, she has now taken to vegan fashion.

At a recent virtual interaction with PETA on vegan fashion and cruelty-free cosmetics, a campaign that was unveiled by the animal rights organisation at this year's Lakme Fashion Week, Sunny talked at length about changing her shopping habits. "Vegan fashion is something that I believe in. I'm trying my very hardest to convert everything in my closet. It is not easy but ever since I stopped eating, I've actu-

cient alternative manner of purchasing, she says, "There are so many things out there for people who are trying to be conscious about purchases. There are lots of things out there for us to choose and pick. Vegan shopping is very easy to do."

She emphasises that it is everyone's duty as responsible citizens to be kind to animals and protect them. "Part of the biggest problem is ignorance and not knowing. So, we have to use our voices because animals cannot use their voices. We've to be the ones to use our voices to bring about a change," Sunny opines.



DUNK R SHERPA
O A R A H U U S
J A Z Z P A Y M E N T S
O R I E N T S A I
E B S N A C K S
I N T R O D U C E U T
A H A U S A A R C
E O E L E M E N T A L
V E R I F Y V C
O F M R R I G H T
K A N G A R O O L I E U
E I C B O G S P
D U T I E S K E T U I

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 14

CROSSWORD

Across

- Kind of symmetry (6)
- Small child (3)
- Indian bison found in the wild (4)
- Chooses or selects (4)
- Doddery (6)
- Loathsome (9)
- Clean and tidy (4)
- Immerse (3)
- A pleasure (5)
- Earlier form of SONAR ? (5)
- Very small (3)
- Refined or crude petroleum (3)
- Russian drink (5)
- Famous diarist (5)
- Weep (3)
- Successful pilots (4)
- Schooling (9)
- Artist's work (6)
- Rounded lump (4)

Down

- Allows or permits (4)
- Expert (3)
- Hoarded (6)
- Rules like a monarch (6)
- Beaten (8)
- Taj Mahal site (4)
- Kappa followers (7)
- Band (5)
- Sullen (4)
- Design device (7)
- Strike (3)
- Long journey (4)
- Tofu base (4)
- Find out (8)
- Phrasing (7)
- Restarts a computer (7)
- Hawaiian food (3)
- Rise, soar or climb (6)
- Made off with (5)
- Caribbean nation (4)
- Bird's home (4)

SUDOKU



6 3 1 9 4 7 5 8 2
9 7 8 5 6 2 1 3 4
2 4 5 1 8 3 7 9 6
5 8 9 7 3 6 2 4 1
7 1 3 4 2 9 6 5 8
4 2 6 8 1 5 3 7 9
1 5 2 3 9 4 8 6 7
3 6 4 2 7 8 9 1 5
8 9 7 6 5 1 4 2 3

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 14

Students being dragged to the Supreme Court

High Court slams CBSE for ‘anti-student attitude’

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Monday rapped the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for its "anti-student attitude", saying it was "treating students as enemies" by dragging them all the way to the Supreme Court in certain matters.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan made the observation while hearing a plea moved by the Board challenging a single judge order, which said the CBSE's reassessment scheme for students whose board exams got cancelled due to COVID-19 would apply to improvement candidates also. "We don't like this anti-student attitude of the CBSE. You are dragging students all the way to the Supreme Court. Should they be studying or going to court? We should start im-

posing costs on the CBSE. "They are treating students as enemies," the bench added. The bench further said that if the scheme applies to all improvement students, "what is the harm in it?" The single-judge had held on August 14 that the scheme approved by the Supreme Court for assessing students due to cancellation of the CBSE exams in light of COVID-19 will also apply to students, who appeared for improvement examinations as they are equal victims of the pandemic.

"There is no earthshaking emergency for you to come to court now all guns blazing," the bench said, adding that the CBSE should have gone to the apex court for a clarification, instead of dragging students to court. The single judge had said that like regular students, those who appeared for improvement exams would also be entitled to avail the scores as per the assess-



ment scheme or appear for the optional examination whenever it is held by the CBSE. The August 14 order had come on a plea by a student who appeared in the CBSE class 12 exams held in February-March last year and secured 95.25 per cent.

Thereafter, to improve his score, he dropped one year and decided to reappear in Accountancy, English Core, Economics and Business Studies for an improvement examination this year.

While other exams were held as per schedule, the Business Studies exam, which was slated for March 24, was cancelled due to the lockdown announced on account of COVID-19. The student, Sanyam Gupta, sought that his result for the improvement examinations ought to be declared and in respect of the cancelled paper of Business Studies, he should be treated at par with the

regular students for whom an assessment scheme was approved by the apex court. The high court directed the CBSE to issue a corrected marksheet to the student. After implementing the August 14 order and issuing a corrected marksheet to Gupta who, thereafter, got admitted in a Delhi University college on the basis of the same, the CBSE has now challenged the single judge's decision. Taking note of the facts and circumstances, the bench said, "The impugned order has been implemented. The child has taken admission. Why should we upset the applecart now?" When the CBSE counsel said that the improvement candidates were getting more chances under the reassessment scheme as compared to regular students, the bench said it should have brought this to the attention of the apex court when the scheme was being approved.

Farmers' stir gains momentum

Hold hands of 'annadaatas' not poll funders

Anna Hazare warns govt of fast

NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Monday attacked the Centre over the farmers' day-long hunger strike, saying the government should let go of the hands of "election financiers" and hold the hands of the country's food providers by repealing the new farm laws.

Leaders of around 32 farmer unions observed a day-long hunger strike at Delhi's Singhu border on Monday to protest against the Centre's new farm laws. The unions claimed that demonstrations were also held at various district headquarters across the country. "For the first time in 73 years, the farmers who feed the nation are on a hunger strike throughout the country. How many more 'acheche din' you will bring Modi ji!" Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted. "Let go of the hands of elec-

tion financiers and hold the hands of 'annadaatas' (food providers), wipe their tears and apologise, while taking back the three black laws," he said. Responding to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's remarks that the government's wish is that farmers come for clause-by-clause discussion, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Why didn't Modi Sarkar allow a Parliament Committee to examine the 3 Farm Bills clause-by-clause when the Opposition demanded it in September? Now it says it is ready. Ridiculous!"

Social activist Anna Hazare wrote to Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar warning "resumption of a hunger strike" against the Centre's "failure" to fulfil his demands including the implementation of the recommendations made by M S Swaminathan Commission.



A farmer exercises at Singhu border during their sit-in protest against the Centre's farm reform laws, in New Delhi on Monday

First Covid-19 shots begin on historic day in US

NEW YORK

"HOPEFULLY soon! I'm first on the list!", reads a text message from Dr. Krishan Kumar, an Indian American doctor on the frontlines of the pandemic response in New York City. Excitement and a sense of relief are palpable as the first Covid-19 shots go into the arms of healthcare workers and nursing home residents in the United States.

Kumar works in the emergency rooms of two hospitals, in Brooklyn and in Queens. His message landed just as the very first shot in the United States was delivered to a nurse in New York City, shortly before 9: 30 am on Monday. "I feel like healing is coming," said Sandra Lindsay, a critical care nurse who received the first vaccine in New York City, in Queens, in the full glare of news cameras. As these remarkable visuals play out, hospital workers across 50 states are unloading precious cargo: the first vials of nearly 3 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine which mark the shift towards real recovery from a virus that has killed nearly 300,000 Americans in just 11 months.

DATA HACKING BY SPYWARE PEGASUS

WhatsApp denies allegations in SC

NEW DELHI

WHATSAPP on Monday denied in the Supreme Court the allegations that its data can be hacked by Israeli spyware Pegasus, which had led to a controversy last year over breach of privacy following claims that Indian journalists and human rights activists were among those globally spied upon by unnamed entities.

The issue cropped up before a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde which was hearing a plea filed by Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam seeking direction to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for framing regulation to ensure that data collected on UPI platforms is not "exploited" or used in any manner other than for processing payments.

"An allegation is that WhatsApp data can be hacked by a software called Pegasus," the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, told senior advocate

Kapil Sibal, who was appearing for WhatsApp. Sibal said "these are all allegations. None of them are correct."

WhatsApp had said last year that it was suing an Israeli surveillance firm that is reportedly behind the technology that helped unnamed entities' spies to hack into phones of roughly 1,400 users. During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Monday, senior advocate Krishnan Venugopal, appearing for Viswam, told the bench that RBI has filed an affidavit in the matter and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) should also make its stand clear in the matter. "Additional safeguards should be there. WhatsApp's security is not up to the mark and the third point is of data localisation. Data is being shared by companies like Facebook, WhatsApp and Amazon. This is a breach of privacy. All the data are being shared in violation of the NPCI norms," Venugopal said.

Links with PFI ?

UP opposes bail plea of Kerala scribe Kappan in SC

NEW DELHI

THE Uttar Pradesh government Monday opposed in the Supreme Court the bail plea of Kerala-based scribe Siddique Kappan, arrested on his way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped, saying he has been "associated" with PFI, responsible for disrupting public peace by provoking "the class and caste conflicts".

The state government in its additional affidavit, filed through Satya Prakash Upadhyay, Special Secretary of Department of Home Affairs, has given details of the probe conducted by its Special Task Force (STF) so far in the case and vehemently opposed the bail plea of Kappan moved by Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ).

"Kappan has been associated with the Popular Front of India (PFI) which has been responsible for disrupting the public peace of the State by provoking the class and caste conflicts within the State with an intention to destroy the public order and to tarnish the image of the government established by law..." the affidavit said. "Investigation has also revealed that the accused Kappan is not only involved in hatching a design to commit a cognizable offence to disrupt public order on a pace but is also a mastermind having links with various unfortunate riots, disturbing public tranquility nationwide," it said. A bench headed by Chief Jus-



tice S A Bobde fixed the plea of KUWJ questioning Kappan's arrest for hearing in the third week of January after asking it to file the reply to the additional affidavit of the state government.

The bail application filed by KUWJ in respect of the accused being devoid of merits and deserved to be rejected for the reason that the investigation in the case has been handed over to the Special Task Force and the his custody is required for "thorough and effective investigation", the state government said. "Further various evidences are yet to be collected/recorded and it is to be noted that the nature of the evidence that has been collected so far supports the accusation levelled against the accused," it

said. If the bail application is accepted by the apex court, then there was a "strong" likelihood of Kappan fleeing and indulging in similar activities, it said, adding that the accused may interfere with the smooth investigation. "Kappan and all other accused are directly and closely associated with the PFI members who have been executive members of 'banned terrorist organization SIMI,'" it said. During the interrogation on October 5, Kappan had presented a fake identity card claiming himself to be a reporter of a Malayalam Newspaper 'Thejas', it said.

Army Colonel rapes friend's wife after drugging him

KANPUR

AN Army colonel posted here was booked on Sunday for allegedly raping a friend's wife at an officers mess, police said. The victim's husband, a civilian, lodged an FIR against the Army officer

at the Cantonment police station, Superintendent of Police (East) Raj Kumar Agarwal said. According to the complainant, his wife is of Russian descent and has been living in India for 10 years. "Police have launched a probe and efforts are

being made to nab the colonel. His friend has stated in the FIR that the colonel had invited his wife and him to a party on the occasion of his promotion to the rank of colonel from that of lieutenant colonel on Saturday," Agarwal said.

‘Women speaking up against MJ Akbar requires celebration’

NEW DELHI

WOMEN speaking about the sexual misconduct of former union minister M J Akbar in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018 required celebration and not prosecution for defamation, journalist Priya Ramani told a Delhi court on Monday.

She made the submission during the final hearing in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Akbar against her for allegedly defaming him by accusing him of sexual misconduct 20 years back.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told the court that it was not a crime to speak up on the #MeToo platform and that those were the acts of extreme courage. #MeToo came to India in 2018. It wasn't a crime to speak up on #MeToo plat-

form. These are acts of extreme courage that require celebration. These are not the acts for which one should face defamation. Several people spoke up about past incidents and unburdened themselves. They are not guilty, John told Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar. She told the judge that not just Ramani but at least 15 other women journalists made similar allegations against Akbar.

"Does it mean that all 15 women were petty liars? Did everyone lose their mind in October 2018? Akbar started his defamation campaign only against Ramani. When you isolate, are you singling out someone and why, she submitted and added "We have proved that Akbar's reputation is not impeccable." The counsel read out the statement by a woman journalist Ghazala

Wahab, who too had accused Akbar of sexual misconduct. "A very very serious allegation but Akbar chooses not to prosecute her. From her statement, a very painful story has come out. It happened to a young journalist. An extreme case of harassment. It attacks his reputation. So many women have said it. The case against me is that Ramani started it and thereafter people went crazy. Ramani didn't start it.

Ghazala herself said that she tweeted on October 6, 2018 (two days prior to Ramani's tweet bearing allegation)," she said. She said that Wahab's statement was not hearsay. She tells us her story. It is direct evidence, the counsel added. The counsel also told the court that none of the witnesses appearing for Akbar were credible. The counsel will further take up the matter on December 18.





"A premium Co-Living Space"

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by  Approved No. PO2400001598

SAFE

AFFORDABLE

NO MAINTENANCE

Earn extra sft*

9% to 11% Returns

Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

Color calibration bars and registration marks.

India’s efforts in mitigating global warming laudable

INDIA remains in the top 10 for the second year in a row in the latest global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) released in Germany. The biggest current emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG) China figures at 33rd rank while the largest historical polluter, the USA, appears at the bottom of the list. What is significant is India’s performance in this regard. Though India slid one position down from ninth in 2019 to 10th this year, the passage of the country in inching towards the goals has been remarkable. The country ranked 31st in 2014. Globally, none of the countries assessed for the annual CCPI report are, however, on the path to meet their Paris Agreement commitment of keeping global warming increase below 2 degree Celsius by the end of the century and actually to make efforts to restrict it to 1.5 degree Celsius rise. The performance of 57 countries and the European Union (EU as a single entity) were

taken into account to assess their performance in four types i.e., Green House Gases (GHG) emissions (40 per cent), renewable energy (20 per cent), energy use (20 per cent) and climate policy (20 per cent). In all, these countries emit about 90 per cent of GHG emissions. Civil society representatives from Climate Action Network reminded all governments, particularly rich countries and major emitters, that the commemoration of the Paris Agreement (that was on December 12) must honour the promises made five years ago through ambitious new national climate targets by the end of this year. The ‘ratchet mechanism’- updated climate targets every five years- is the heart of the Paris Agreement. As the 2020 deadline looms for countries to submit updated nationally determined contributions, a recent UN report shows that the emissions gap continues to remain dangerously wide. “The time for implementing new targets is now, not next year”, they reminded. Mobilising efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C must define the post-Covid19 era, with recovery plans aligned with a zero-carbon future. Governments cannot address the effects of the coronavirus pandemic by

digging the world deeper into the climate crisis. The largest economies have pledged over \$250 billion this year to fossil fuels through their Covid19 economic recovery policies. This is an alarming trend that must be swiftly reversed to make sure public money goes towards a just and sustainable future. While net-zero 2050 pledges offer a promising vision, without detailed and ambitious 2030 climate targets based on fair share and equity, they risk becoming a smokescreen for inaction. Finance for adaptation and finance loss and damage are key pillars for driving climate ambition, building resilience to fight the climate crisis and achieving climate justice. Efforts to bridge the shortfall in the \$100 billion annually promised by 2020 must now be reinforced by developed countries with a post-2025 climate finance plan that meets the needs of the most vulnerable communities. As Li Shuo, senior global policy advisor, Greenpeace East Asia, puts it, “it is up to the countries to fulfil their promise to enhance ambition. The majority of them are nowhere near where they should be... We have one planet, five years, and countless lives...” and reach our goals.



Revival of agitational politics

D C PATHAK

THE stir led by the agriculturists of Punjab against the recently enacted triple laws that were intended to reform the rural economy and enhance the income of farmers, predictably turned early into a political agitation against the Modi government with the Opposition, Left liberals and human rights activists losing no time in joining the fray and questioning the very intentions of the Centre in proactively promoting access of industry, trade and commerce to the farm produce.

The enactments had in one go pulled down the monopolistic hold of the ‘Mandis’ on the average farmer, given freedom to even small farmers to enter into trade agreements with industry regarding the patterning of their crops and created mechanism for resolving any contractual disputes through local administration. The traditional middlemen and rich cultivators of Punjab having a large say in how the grains produced will be marketed, became the protagonists of the mass protests that were launched on the familiar lines of blocking the main roads coming into Delhi and dislocating civic life.

The break between the Kharif and Rabi crops came in handy and funding of the logistics of mass ‘dharna’ posed no problem. The large crowds of men and women around the nation’s capital sustaining an infinite agitation were enough to attract national and international headlines and unsurprisingly became a pivot around which the anti-Modi forces wished to revive agitational politics when nothing else had politically worked for them.

The farmer’s agitation against the agricultural laws, however, raises several points for critical examination. On first reading the bills smack of a complex bureaucratic-sounding language that - more than defining the substance of additional opportunity and facility brought to the average farmer - dilates laboriously on protecting the implementors of the government and the business against legal accountability. This perhaps was necessitated by the potential for litigation that the legislation carried inherently - not about the produce itself but around the ‘trade agreement’ entered into by the industry partner. The Acts basically highlight the format of business around the farm produce with corporate entities that the farmers might opt for - outside of the traditional ‘Mandis’ - but throw little light on how the government would prevent exploitative terms being set by the private purchasers for the average small growers.

A farmer cannot travel distances with his produce to get competitive return for his crop at the back of the ‘Mandis’ and in any case, only a small number of them had the capability to find a buyer online. In a situation where the farmers submitted to the ‘Mandis’ even when the latter did not honour the MSP, it was unlikely that the private traders would not be tempted to convert MSP into MRP when dealing with the farmers. The private trader justifiably would have to take into account the cost of having to come close to the producer on the ground but would not be above making unfair profit at the cost of the farmer.

The issues of Mandis and MSP raised by the agitators essentially connected with the farmers of relatively small holdings even though big farmers of Punjab had come on the forefront of the stir because of their own vested interest in the system that had prevailed so far. While the regime honestly wants enhancement of the farmer’s incomes through these ‘reform’ Acts, the transition has - because of insufficient direct communication with the farmers in various parts of the country prior to the enactment - turned out to be sudden and steep for them. A straight forward commitment of the government - even if it was financially inconvenient - to buy on MSP the produce that was not sold in free market should be included through an amendment as this would help a great deal in putting anxieties of the average farmer at rest. The bills should have reflected the willingness of the government to go in for procurement on MSP to a necessary extent till the new arrangements proved their viability and acceptance. If it would have been made clear that MSP applied only to government procurement and farmers could fix their own higher prices for selling produce to any other entity, the unfair monopoly of the ‘Mandis’ would have been curtailed and the instinct of businesses to maximise profit would have been checked.

Once the farmers tasted the benefit of free trade, they would take to the new reforms on their own and any fear of the government that it would have to invest on procurement out of compulsion would be addressed too. In any case for a big country like India with its deep agriculture roots, government would do well to provide for cold storage facility at all headquarters of the districts that were most prominent on the farm front- it should even be prepared to ‘export’ food grain profitably should its stocks get oversaturated. For this it could invoke PPP model that benefits both sides. In a country where two third of the population is ‘rural’, agriculture laws have to have wide popular support for achieving the desired results. Incidentally, when the immediate context is one of government’s initiative designed to reform things for the benefit of the farmers, an ordinance prescribing ‘criminal prosecution’ of farmers for stubble burning came as a spoiler. This problem needed a further separate handling in a multi-prong strategy of solution finding. Even while complying with the orders of the High Court, the law should highlight the options available to the farmers and introduce punishment only for wilful defiance of the same.

Coming back to the problem created by the farmer’s agitation, the government should go ahead by making an amendment to provide for announcement of MSP for major crops before the harvest and declaring any purchases below that price as illegal - this should cool down the tempers substantially. The Central and State governments should appeal to the industry and businesses to reach out to the farmers to strike mutually beneficial deals for exports, food processing and retail operations. The FCI should be revamped for better efficiency and mandated to create cold storage facilities- at least one in each Division. On the other hand Centre should step up vigilance against the likelihood of anti-national forces jumping on the farmers wagon to destabilise the internal situation- credible reports are there about the Khalistani elements and radicals trying to exploit the situation for encouraging terrorist activity. It may be recalled that in the beginning of the Nineties when the Khalistani terror in Punjab was successfully controlled, Pak ISI had embarked on fomenting militancy in Jammu and Kashmir through infiltration of Mujahideen into the valley. It may now sow seeds of trouble in Punjab to make up for its declining success in Kashmir. Pro- Khalistan activism in US and Canada is showing its head again while Islamic radicals with Pak links are already known to be operating on our soil for some time. These will have to be put down without hesitation. Farmer’s agitation does not mean the Sikhs would feel alienated- some opposition leaders are trying to make out that Sikh ex-servicemen as a class were joining hands with the agitation. If some are present in the midst of protestors it is because many families produced both farmers and soldiers and they had to be together for each other’s cause for family reasons. Since the Centre had gone ahead with the Acts with the best of intentions it can patiently work for redressing any serious misgivings about their implementation. At the same time stern handling of any disruptive forces and anti- national elements propping up during the protests must be ensured at all costs.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau. Views expressed are personal)

Will SC check CCTVs to police the cops?



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

On December 10, we celebrated Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is no huge difference between Human Rights and Constitutional Rights, which in India followed 1948 declaration with appropriate incorporation of fundamental rights. When a statutory office holder like police and jail authorities abuse their power and instead of protecting rights of persons in custody, they deliberately cause hurt or death to them, it is violation of human right. Where do you file a complaint against the police and which police will register? If a murder case has to be filed for custodial death or fake encounter, do you have a place to receive complaint and investigate?

‘Who will police the police’ is a big question for which the world could not give any answer till today. But Supreme Court on 2 December 2020 tried to find a solution to this problem in CCTV cameras, which probably can police the police.

Supreme Court asked the government to fix cameras in every possible place where the police interrogates the persons. To avoid efforts or difficulties of investigation, the police mostly use easy technic of torture to extract the information and then collect evidence. The technology available could be effectively used for prevention of violation of Human Rights by the police. The Madras High Court directed the State to make police transparent towards the family of victim of custodial violence and also gave specific guidelines to the judicial magistrates and sessions judges.

The Supreme Court Bench directed the governments at the Centre, all the States and Union Territories to install CCTVs with night vision cameras in each police station, including Central probe agencies such as CBI, ED, NIA etc across India. Justice RF Rohinton Nariman, heading a Bench with two other judges K M Joseph, Aniruddha Bose, said: “The State and Union Territory governments should ensure that CCTV cameras are installed in every police station functioning in the respective State and/or Union Territory. In addition, the Union of India is also directed to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment in the offices of: CBI, NIA, ED, NCB, DRI, SFIO and any other agencies which carries out interrogations and has the power to arrest...” The CCTV systems “must be equipped with night vision and must necessarily consist of audio as well as video footage...” The SHO of the police station concerned shall be responsible for the working, maintenance and recording of CCTVs”. The SC also ordered constitution of Oversight Committees at State and district levels for this purpose. Most of the areas in our country do not have power connection and internet band width. The SC ordered to provide the same as expeditiously as possible. It directed storage of footage for 18 months. The Supreme Court went into details and ordered that the CCTV camera footage should be stored in digital video recorders and/or network video recorders. Importantly, the recording system should be such that the data stored therein is preserved for 18 months.

It was not for the first time SC was dealing with this issue. On 3 April 2018 in SLP (Crl) No. 2302 of 2017, in Shafhi Mohammad Vs. State of Himachal Pradesh (2018) 5 SCC 311, it has directed that a Central Oversight Body (COB) be set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement the plan of action with respect to the use of videography in the crime scene during the investigation. The Supreme Court in D K Basu Vs. State of West Bengal & Others (2015) 8 SCC 744, held that there was a need for further directions that in every State an oversight mechanism be created whereby an independent committee can study the CCTV camera footages and periodically publish a report of its observations thereon. The

The SHO of the police station concerned shall be responsible for the working, maintenance and recording of CCTVs. Most of the areas in our country do not have power connection and internet band width. The SC ordered to provide the same as expeditiously as possible. It directed storage of footage for 18 months. The Supreme Court went into details and ordered that the CCTV camera footage should be stored in digital video recorders and/or network video recorders. Importantly, the recording system should be such that the data stored therein is preserved for 18 months



COB was further directed to issue appropriate instructions in this regard at the earliest. Court wanted COB to issue necessary directions to make videography a reality with implementation of first phase by July 2018, which did not happen. The crime scene videography ought to be introduced at least at some places as per viability and priority determined by the COB.

The Ministry of Home Affairs constituted COB to oversee the implementation of the use of photography and videography in the crime scene by the State/Union Territory government and other Central agencies, to suggest the possibility of setting up a Central Server for implementation of videography.

Directions were issued to the administrators of the Union Territory, State governments, and other Central agencies for effective implementation of the use of photography and videography at the crime scenes, and to furnish an Action Taken Report on the implementation of the use of videography in the crime scene.

The SC mentioned that nothing substantial was done for 2 and half years to implement the SC directions and implemented all states and union territories to file affidavits explaining the compliance of its earlier orders. The compliance affidavits and Action Taken Reports were filed by 14 States (till 24.11.2020), namely, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Nagaland, Karnataka,

Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur; and 2 Union Territories, namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. (It means two Telugu States did not file). But they failed to disclose the ground position of installation of CCTV cameras in each police station. The SC noticed that they are bereft of details with respect to the total number of police stations functioning in the respective State and Union Territory; total number of CCTV cameras installed in each police station; the positioning of the CCTV cameras already installed; working condition of the CCTV cameras; whether the CCTV cameras have a recording facility, if yes, then for how many days/hours, have not been disclosed.

When most of the States do not file affidavits, though mandated, and do not disclose the real status, can we hope that this judgment becomes a reality? The constitution of Oversight Committees in accordance with the Order dated 03.04.2018, and/or details with respect to the Oversight Committees already constituted in the respective States and Union Territory have also not been disclosed. The apex court instructed States and UTs to file compliance affidavits within six weeks.

SC reminded that these directions are in furtherance of the fundamental rights of each citizen of India guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It directed the States and UTs to implement 2018 order of SC both in letter and in spirit as soon as possible and file affidavits of compliance within six weeks.

The constitution of Oversight Committees in accordance with Supreme Court Order dated 03.04.2018 should be done at the State and District levels. The State Level Oversight Committee (SLOC) must consist of: (i) The Secretary/Additional Secretary, Home Department; (ii) Secretary/Additional Secretary, Finance Department; (iii) The Director General/Inspector General of Police; and (iv) The Chairperson/member of the State Women’s Commission. It shall be the duty of the SLOC to see that the directions passed by this Court are carried out. Amongst others, the duties shall consist of: a) Purchase, distribution and installation of CCTVs and its equipment; b) Obtaining the budgetary allocation for the same; c) Continuous monitoring of maintenance and upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment; d) Carrying out inspections and addressing the grievances received. Similarly, the District Level Oversight Committees should also be constituted with similar obligation.

The Court directed facilitation of victims to complain. It said: “Whenever there is information of force being used at police stations resulting in serious injury and/or custodial deaths, it is necessary that persons be free to complain for a redressal of the same. Such complaints may not only be made to the State Human Rights Commission, which is then to utilise its powers, more particularly under Sections 17 and 18 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, for redressal of such complaints, but also to Human Rights Courts, which must then be set up in each District of every State/Union Territory under Section 30 of the aforesaid Act. The Commission/Court can then immediately summon CCTV camera footage in relation to the incident for its safe keeping, which may then be made available to an investigation agency in order to further process the complaint made to it”.

The apex court directed the Union government to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment in the offices of: (i) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) (ii) National Investigation Agency (NIA) (iii) Enforcement Directorate (ED) (iv) Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) (v) Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) (vi) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) (vii) Any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest.

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennet University and former Central Information Commissioner)

Owaisi now eyes big gains in Rajasthan

ARCHANA SHARMA

IF present trends are to be believed, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi seems to be eyeing big gains in Rajasthan in the long run by luring Bharatiya Tribal Party. In a surprising move, Owaisi recently extended his support to Bharatiya Tribal Party in Rajasthan soon after it announced to withdraw its support to the Congress.

The BTP recently announced its separation with the ruling party in Rajasthan after the Congress joined hands with BJP to defeat BTP in Zila Parishad polls in Dungarpur district.

Soon after the stunning political episode, BTP National president Chhotubhai Vasava, tweeted, “#BJP Congress are one. This is the only truth.”

Replying to his tweet, Owaisi said, “Vasavaji Congress will teach you and me the lesson of Opposition unity in the morning and evening. However, it will not rise above the Janeyudhari unity itself. Both of them are basically one. How long will you support them? Is your independent power anywhere less than a kingmaker? Hope you will take a right decision soon. We are with you in this struggle of stake,” he said.

It needs to be mentioned here that there were reports of Owaisi taking a strong interest in Rajasthan soon after municipal polls were recently held in three districts. The Muslim leaders of the state wanted their community to be represented as they had a strong number of corporators in the walled city.

Feeling deserted, these community leaders then approached Owaisi, and

since then, Owaisi is monitoring political developments in the state, confirmed official sources. AIMIM is keeping a strong vigil on 40 seats dominated by Muslims in state, they added. Owaisi’s tweet further strengthens this claim.

As he has already marked a significant presence in Bihar, he now seems to be making attempts to change political equations in tribal and Muslim belts in Rajasthan too, confirmed sources.

In present situation, if Owaisi ties up with BTP, then he can be the gamechanger in tribal dominated seats of Gujarat, MP and Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, the BTP stands strong in Dungarpur, Banswara and Pratapgarh districts.

The party has two MLAs representing Rajasthan Assembly. However, the party which supported Congress in Rajya


Sabha polls as well as during political crisis reported in July has withdrawn its support to the party.


Rajkumar Rout, BTP MLA, said, “Our party has announced to withdraw support to the Congress as it joined hands with the BJP to emerge winner in the recent local polls. We are elected representatives and need to answer to people who voted for us. They were questioning us about how we could support a party who can join hands with the opposition to emerge as the winner,” he said.


Meanwhile, all eyes are now set on what shall be the next step of Owaisi in the state. Will it continue to be the two-party dominated state or if there will be a third front coming in at any point, remains the most discussed question in political corridors.


NATIONAL ANIMAL: SHOULD COW REPLACE TIGER?


Cow is a sacred animal for Hindus for ages. India's neighbour Nepal declared cow as a national animal. This has also led to an intense debate in the country on whether the Indian government should also follow suit. *The Hans India* spoke to a cross section of people on the issue. A majority backed making cow the national animal. They said whether it is a house-warming ceremony or initiating a new venture, ushering in a cow is considered a good omen and a sign of lucky charm. However, a few said what benefit does a common man derive by enacting a legislation making cow the national animal. They pointed out that as per the Constitution, all religions are equal in the nation.



Cow is a sacred animal and deserves National Animal status. It is playing a pivotal role in Hindu dharma. Hindus treat it as a divine animal and worships it seeing Goddesses Lakshmi in it. The government should ban cow slaughter first before giving it National Animal status.
Chotu, anchor, Rajamahendravaram



Besides being a sacred animal, its products have several medicinal values. Its urine is used as medicine and its dung as anti-bacterial in houses. Hindus believes that three crore Gods are in the cow and used it during auspicious events. They are donated during the last rites of a person with a belief that it gives deliverance. The animal should be made National Animal.
G Chantibabu, businessman, Rajamahendravaram



No one can imagine Hinduism without cow, as it has a significant role in Hindu rituals. Cow is a gift given to mankind by God and it is part and parcel of Hindu religion deserving National Animal status.
Benarjee, educationist, Rajamahendravaram



Cow is a symbol of holiness and everyone should pray it for peace and prosperity. It is also a symbol of health and wealth in our rural economy as its milk, urine and dung having medicinal values. Cow milk is essential for children for their healthy growth and has all minerals and vitamins than the milk of lactating mothers. By considering all these qualities, our Central government should declare cow as National Animal.
Boyina Someswara Rao, medical shop owner, Srikakulam.



In a secular country like India, cow is worshipped as God. There is no auspicious occasion celebrated without paying respect to the cow. Giving the national animal tag to the cow is a welcome move which also aids in safeguarding the animal from getting slaughtered.
Narava Prakasa Rao, honorary secretary of Bala Vikas Foundation, Visakhapatnam.



Acow epitomises compassion, motherliness, righteousness, sanctity and auspiciousness. Cow represents holiness and the animal should be protected and revered. In the Vedas, cow is associated with 'Aditi', the mother of all the Gods. India being a peace-loving country, making cow the national animal in place of the tiger is not only apt but also is in tune with our culture.
Dwaram Anantha Venkata Swamy, DGM (projects), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam.


In our rural economy, farmers give high priority to the cow. Hindus worship it as Goddess Lakshmi Devi. Our people believe that service provided to the cow is service to the God. We are offering prayers to the cow on several occasions as part of Hindu religious traditions. Cow has high status in the hearts of people and the government should also prove its respect towards cow by declaring it as National Animal.
G Vasanthi, asst. professor, AITAM Engineering College, Tekkali.


It will be laudable decision to declare cow as National Animal. Already cow has special place in Indian society and culture and declaring cow as National Animal will definitely help to give more protection to it. The government has also to take responsibility of feeding cows. But many owners of in cities like Vijayawada are not feeding them properly and leaving them on the roads from morning to evening. It is the responsibility of the owner of the cow to give proper protection and fodder. It should be a collective responsibility of both the government and the people, the owners of the cows.
M S Naidu, businessman, Vijayawada.


Iwelcome any move to make cow National Animal. India is a very big country and we should take into consideration of other religions when we take such important decisions. I think there will be no objection from the people of other faiths if cow is declared National Animal. So far, cow has a very important place in the society and crores of people worship it. So, the temples and Gosals will have to take more responsibility and care towards cows and the government will also take responsibility if cow is declared National Animal.
D Srivinas, government employee, Vijayawada.


Hindus worship cow as a sacred animal on all auspicious events. It's milk, urine and dung are highly useful for human beings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take initiative to introduce a bill ensuring national animal status to cow. Killing cows is to be declared as major offence. All Hindus should raise their voice to declare cow as National Animal.
M N Murthy, president, Sankar Seva Samithi, Chittoor.


Cow has high place in our religious texts. It is worshipped by Hindus for centuries. Slaughtering the cow is to be banned through a legislation. It is said the animal is a symbol of all Hindu Gods. It is not too late to ensure National Animal status to cow. No animal is comparable to it. Hope Modi would accord National Animal status the animal.
M Vijayasanthi, pharmacist, Govt.Homoeo Dispensary, Chittoor.

CM may launch sites distribution at Yerpedu

- Jagan is likely to launch house site distribution programme at Chindepalli in Yerpedu mandal near Tirupati on Dec 25
- Srikalahasti MLA Madhusudan Reddy, District Collector Gupta along with officials visit the layout of sites at Chindepalli village



Srikalahasti MLA B Madhusudhan Reddy and District Collector Dr N B Gupta inspecting the layout in Chindepalli where house sites were allotted to poor, on Monday

TIRUPATI

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is likely to launch the prestigious house site distribution programme from Chittoor district on December 25. According to sources, the Chief Minister will participate in the official distribution of house sites to the poor in Chindepalli village in Yerpedu mandal, 25 km from here, to mark the commencement of the state-wide distribution of the much awaited house sites, to the poor.

Anticipating the Chief Minister's official programme, district collector Dr Narayan Bharat Gupta along with team of concerned officials and local (Srikalahasti) MLA B Madhusudan Reddy on Monday inspected Chindepalli where the officials readied the layout compris-

ing house site pattas for distribution to the eligible poor from the nearby towns and villages.

It is learnt that Jagan will launch the distribution in Srikalahasti or in Tirupati constituency on December 25.

It may be noted that the YSRCP government planned distribution of 30.66 lakh house site pattas which later came down to 27 lakh house owing to ongoing legal disputes. In all, 17,436 YSR-Jagannana Colonies will come up in about 11000 panchayats in the state for which the state government acquired 68,677 acre land, including 25,359 acre private land, to which the government paid Rs 10,150 crore as compensation while the market value of the lands including government and private was a whopping Rs 25,359 crore.

5 large industrial parks to come up soon in AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) is in the process of setting up five large multi-product industrial parks in the state. These parks will come up in three industrial corridors spread over 42,313 acre of the state with funding from the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), a Central government aided organisation. In the first phase, NICDIT agreed in principle to fund the development of the multi-product industrial parks on 13,292 acre.

Apart from the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) funded by the ADB, three additional parks are being developed in the Chennai-Bangalore Corridor and Hyderabad-Bangalore Corridor.

APIIC plans to develop Nakkapalli, Srikalahasti, Kopparthi, in the VCIC, Krishnapatnam on the

► These multi-product parks will be set up by APIIC in three industrial corridors with the funds from Centre's National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust

► Development of parks in Nakkapalli, Srikalahasti, Kopparthi in the VCIC, Krishnapatnam on the Chennai-Bangalore corridor and Orvakallu industrial park on the Hyderabad-Bangalore corridor in process

► YSRCP RS member Vijayasai Reddy takes a dig at former CM Chandrababu Naidu saying there has been no waste of crores of money for Partnership Summits, road shows in Davos and publicity events as these parks are coming on the basis of credibility of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy



Chennai-Bangalore corridor and Orvakallu industrial park on the Hyderabad-Bangalore corridor within these 42,313 acres.

It has also approved a detailed project report for the develop-

ment of Krishnapatnam Park on 2,500 acre and Rs 1,314 crore has been sanctioned for this.

Official sources said that tenders would be called for the Krishnapatnam Park works shortly.

Jagan to meet Shah, Modi

Continued from P1

The CM will also seek adequate flood relief for the families affected by Cyclone Nivar and approval for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project proposed to turn Rayalaseema's drought region into greener pastures.

It may be recalled that the Telangana Government has moved the Supreme Court seeking justice for Telangana from the designs of the Andhra government to exploit Krishna waters from Pothireddypadu. In turn, the AP

Government has complained to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti against the new projects undertaken by its counterpart in Telangana over Krishna and Godavari rivers.

The Centre has asked both the governments to come up with its detailed project reports before the Apex Council meeting could decide on an agreeable formula.

Jagan Mohan Reddy is expected to reiterate his government's support to the Centre in the ongoing farmers' struggle issue which is

expected to snowball into a bigger controversy. The Centre is also keen to rope in as many State Governments as possible in its favour in this regard while assuring the farmers the required safeguards as demanded but retaining the farm laws.

Another issue dearer to the heart of Jagan Mohan Reddy is the three capitals issue of which Kurnool is one as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh. Reddy needs the Centre's approval for the same.

Centre plans to vaccinate 30 cr population

Continued from P1

The Centre has stated that the country stands on the cusp of COVID-19 vaccine administration, even as certain challenges need to be countered well in time. "These may include the challenge of ensuring over 1.3 billion people in India receive factual and timely information and updates on vaccine rollout progress and benefits, public's anxiety and queries regarding government's decision for prioritisation of vaccine administration, apprehension about the vaccines introduced after a short trial raising safety concerns, and fear of adverse events, misconception about vaccine efficacy, rumours and negative narrative in media/social media space and laxity observed in public adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour," the document stated.

The vaccination team will consist of five members, it said. Each session should be planned for 100 beneficiaries per day. If the session site has adequate logistics and space available for waiting room and observation room along with arrangement for crowd management, one more vaccinator officer can be

added to create a session for 200 beneficiaries, the guidelines stated.

The Covid-19 vaccine will be offered first to healthcare workers, frontline workers and to persons above 50 years of age, followed by persons younger than 50 years of age with associated comorbidities based on the evolving pandemic situation, and finally to the remaining population based on the disease epidemiology and vaccine availability. The priority group of above 50 years may be further subdivided into those above 60 years of age and those between 50 to 60 years of age for purposes of phasing of rollout based on the pandemic situation and vaccine availability. "The latest electoral roll for Lok Sabha and legislative assembly election will be used to identify the population aged 50 years or more," the guidelines stated. Under phase one of the vaccination, it is planned to vaccinate nearly 30 crore population. Twelve photo-identity documents, including Voter ID, Aadhar card, driving license, passport and pension document, will be required for self-registration on the Co-WIN website, it added.

KIDS' SCIENCE CONGRESS TO FOCUS ON 'SUSTAINABLE LIVING'

► The event is to be held online this year due to Covid-19 norms and for safety of children

► Class VI to X students are eligible to take part and each school can submit as many projects as they wish

► District level event to be held before Dec 25 from which 10 projects will be chosen for state-level

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

ADOPTING the process of learning through doing among children, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), department of science and technology (DST) along with AP Council of Science and Technology (APCOST) is organising National Children's Science Congress every year. It helps children to carry out small research activities at the micro level, which can inculcate their



District Collector Dr N Bharat Gupta looks at a project at a Children's Science Congress in 2019

scientific thinking.

While bringing out the creativity among children, this major event will make them carry out the research activity in their neighbourhood finding out solutions for local issues. In view of the Covid-19 norms and the safety of children, this year the science congress will be organised online both at district and state levels and the guidelines were issued accordingly.

This year 'Science for Sustainable Living' was chosen as the focal theme under which five sub themes are given. They are: Eco system for sustainable living, appropriate technology for sustainable living, social innovation for sustainable living, design, development and modelling for sustainable living and traditional knowledge system (TKS) for sustainable living.

The district coordinator of Na-

From Pfizer to foreign offices, a story of Chinese Communist infiltration

Continued from P1

The Chinese communist party members are serving as senior political and government affairs specialists, economic advisers and in other positions, The Australian reported on the China leaks. The US had earlier claimed to have uncovered an intelligence operation to collect scientific data from the fields of biomedicine and artificial intelligence researches being undertaken in the country. The US also claimed that the majority of theft of trade secrets and corporate espionage from the country benefited China.

Now, these China leaks are lifting what commentators in Australia are calling the lid on how the Communist Party of China operates under its chief Xi Jinping. Australia and China have strained their relationship badly in recent months over the probe into the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Australia has been a vociferous supporter of an independent probe with unhindered access to the scientific team in Wuhan, where the novel coronavirus outbreak took place a year ago. China has considered this as a contentious claim and resisted such a move resorting to aggressive diplomatic overtures. The database that now forms the China leaks was extracted from a Shanghai server by Chinese whistleblowers in April 2016. The database was sent in September to an international bi-parti-

China constructing heliport in Aksai Chin

Continued from P1

The road runs parallel to the LAC, connecting Leh to DBO, and is strategically important for India.

The airbase and the new road are extremely close to the LAC, enhancing India's logistics capabilities, but irking China. Latest satellite images covering occupied areas of Aksai Chin indicate that PLA has been constructing a heliport within the contested area. The heliport area was earmarked in the month of August 2019 and preparations began in October 2019. Satellite images from Sentinel suggest that although preparations had begun and area marked for the heliport, construction was stalled till the beginning of April 2020, when the first activity was observed on satellite imagery.

san group, the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China formed in June this year. It is a group of 150 legislators from democracies around the world focused on relations with China, particularly the Communist Party of China. The Australian has published reports from the same database to say that the Chinese communist party has been infiltrating the foreign offices of other countries and big corporate houses.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.99	South	
Euro	93.9	African Rand	5.64
UAE Dirham	22.03	Hong Kong Dollar	10.92
Thai Baht	2.81	Japanese Yen	0.82
British Pound	102.75	New Zealand Dollar	54.94
Australian Dollar	58.43	Saudi Riyal	21.56
Canadian Dollar	60.58	Swedish Krona	10.04
Swiss Franc	86.39	Singapore Dollar	57.98

DELHI TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

REPL listed on NSE

LEADING integrated Infrastructure consultancy firm REPL (Rudrabhishek Enterprises Limited) got listed on National Stock Exchange (NSE). The company had launched its IPO in 2018, with a consolidated revenue of Rs 43.9 crore and subsequently got listed on NSE-Emerge platform under SME section. The stock of the company has given a return of more than 140 per cent to its shareholders and revenue grew to Rs 83.1 crore in last two years. Pradeep Misra, CMD, REPL said, "This is a significant milestone for the organization. We are one of its kind company to get listed in India's biggest stock exchange - NSE. The progress is indeed a testimony to our performance and confidence that our clients have bestowed on us." REPL is already working on many infrastructure and planning projects.

PMJ Jewels' new collection

PMJ Jewels in association with Forevermark unveiled new bridal collection of diamond jewellery. The collection of intricately designed bridal sets, earrings, rings, bracelets, and cuffs are set in natural Forevermark diamonds, which undergo a journey of rigorous selection and bears a unique inscription. The Artemis collection will also be available at the stores. This collection is a result of a successful collaboration between Forevermark, PMJ Jewels, and New York-based designer Bibhu Mohapatra. "Bridal jewellery is selected with great love and marks important moments in people's lives. Therefore, we have created our jewellery with Forevermark diamonds, which are natural, unique, and beautiful and reinforces the customer's trust in our brand, with their diamonds," said Dinesh Jain, MD, PMJ Jewels. This collection crafted with Forevermark diamonds gives customers a chance to choose from some of the high-quality pieces designed, said Sachin Jain, Managing Director, De Beers India

Tupperware opens store

HATSUN Agro Product Ltd. (HAP), Homeware brand Tupperware opened its fourth store in Hyderabad, taking its exclusive store count across India to 75. The newly launched Tupperware outlet will bring modern range kitchenware solutions. Tupperware India MD Deepak Chhabra said: "Tupperware will continue to lift the spirits through newer innovations to nurture a better future for our families, communities and our environment every day. we will now be accessible for our larger set of consumers in the south, and people will have the opportunity to experience and buy our wide range of products." Through these stores, we can showcase the superior design, vibrant colours and demonstrability of our products- something that we are renowned for, said Sowjanya, the new store owner.

Apollo to make Covid test kits

APOLLO Hospitals has joined hands with CSIR-CCMB to manufacture and commercialise direct amplification rapid RT-PCR (DArT-PCR) test kits. The dry swab test kit has been developed for detection of Covid-19. The kit will be available nationally through Apollo Hospitals network. CSIR-CCMB Director Dr Rakesh said, "As people are getting back to their normal lives and businesses, it is important for us to ramp up our testing for the coronavirus. With Apollo and its vast network of hospitals and health services, we are positive about impacting many lives towards better health."

ARSON BY WORKERS IN K'TAKA PLANT

iPhone maker loses ₹437 crore

Wistron, which makes iPhones for Apple, has expressed shock over the attack

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

WISTRON Corporation, a contract manufacturer for Apple Inc, has suffered losses worth over Rs 437 crore due to violence perpetrated by a section of workers over salary issues at its manufacturing plant in Karnataka. A large number of employees allegedly carried out arson, loot and violence at Wistron's Narasapura manufacturing plant in Kolar district over some wage-related issues on Saturday, police had said. They damaged the building, damaged vehicles, set them on fire, damaged costly equipment including machines and computers. The company, which on Monday expressed deep shock over the incident, has already filed a complaint at the Vemagal police station. In the complaint, the company's executive T D Prashanth has stated that office equipment, mobile phones, production machinery and related equipment worth Rs 412.5 crore were lost. Among others, infrastructure worth Rs 10 crore, Rs 60 lakh worth cars and golf carts, smartphones and other gadgets worth Rs 1.5 crore suffered damage, were stolen or lost. According to the complaint, 5,000 contract labourers and about 2,000 unknown culprits carried out the vandalism at the facility. The police have so far arrested 149 people and detained a few others. "We are deeply shocked by events at our Narasapura facility. We follow the law and are supporting the authorities with their investigation. The safety and well-being of our team members is always our top priority," Wistron Smart Devices, innovation business group, Managing Director Sudipto Gupta said in a statement.

A large number of employees allegedly carried out arson, loot and violence at Wistron's Narasapura manufacturing plant in Kolar district over some wage-related issues on Saturday

Apple says it's investigating

APPLE Inc said it is investigating if its Taiwanese contractor Wistron Corp flouted supplier guidelines at a violence-hit iPhone manufacturing facility near Bengaluru, following violence at the plant. Wistron is one of Apple's top global suppliers. In India, it makes iPhone 7 handsets and second-generation iPhone SE devices. Apple said it was dispatching additional staff and auditors to the facility. "Our teams are in close touch with the local authorities and we're offering our full support to their investigation," the tech giant said in a statement.

WPI inflation zooms to 9-mth high in Nov

NEW DELHI

THE wholesale price-based inflation rose to a 9-month high of 1.55 per cent in November on costlier manufactured items, even as food prices cooled. The WPI inflation was 1.48 per cent in October 2020 and 0.58 per cent in November last year. This is the highest level of wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation since February, when it was 2.26 per cent. While food articles saw softening in inflation in November, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices. Food inflation in November stood at 3.94 per cent, against 6.37 per cent in the previous month. The rate of price rise in vegetables and potatoes remained high at 12.24 per cent and 115.12 per cent during the month. Inflation in non-food articles was higher at 8.43 per cent in November, while in fuel and power basket it was (-) 9.87 per cent. ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said with a sharp and fairly broad-based month-on-month increase of 0.8 per cent, the core-WPI inflation rose to a 22-month high of 2.6 per cent in November 2020. "In our view, a rise in inflation for core items and commodities, including crude oil and mineral oils, would be partly offset by a base-effect led decline in the food inflation in December 2020, resulting in a fairly stable print for the ongoing month," Nayar said. Elinor India CEO & MD Sanjay Kumar said the increasing trend in the wholesale price inflation is essentially a mixed bag. Hopefully the price rise is on the back of increased demand and not because of an increase in input cost for manufacturing. "If it is driven purely by demand, then it is a welcome sign as it signals an improvement in the economy, however one would have to watch with caution whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decides to tighten the monetary policy in view of the rising inflation," Kumar added.

FM holds 1st pre-budget talks with top industrialists

NEW DELHI

WITH the union budget-making process getting underway, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held her first pre-budget consultation with top industrialists on Monday. The meeting assumed importance as it would bring industry and government together to identify critical areas of reform that would pave the way for reinvigorating growth in the economy hit hard by the pandemic this year. The ideas from the industry would go as valuable inputs for government budgetary exercise for FY22. Sources said that the who's who of India Inc., including Uday Kotak from Kotak Mahindra Bank, Biocon's Kiran Majumdar Shaw attended the meeting organised through video conferencing. Along with Finance Minister, Finance Secretary AB Pandey, Secretary, DEA, Tarun Bajaj, Chief Economic Advisor K. Subramanian besides other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

Retail inflation falls to 6.93%

RETAIL inflation declined to 6.93 per cent in November on softer food prices, though it remained above the comfort level of the Reserve Bank. Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 7.61 per cent in October. According to the CPI data released by the government on Monday, inflation in the food basket was 9.43 per cent in November, down from 11 per cent in the previous month.

No one will invest in an unviable power sector

NEW DELHI

POWER Minister R K Singh on Monday expressed concerns about the sustainability of state-owned loss making discoms saying investments in the power sector will not come unless there is viability in the system. "Investment will not come unless and until there is viability in the system, unless and until the people who put money are assured that power they generate and sell will be paid for. That is the basic problem of sustainability we are facing," Singh said at the 93rd annual general meeting of industry chamber FICCI. Singh's statement assumes significance as India aims to move towards higher economic growth rate which requires an efficient and vibrant power sector. The minister further said, "I am worried about sustainability (of discoms) because a large number of discoms are loss making. Most of the state-owned discoms are loss making. None of the private-owned discoms are loss making as their aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses are below norm." The minister further explained that the discoms are not able to pay for the power supply from gencos because they are making losses, "which causes stress upstream and dampens investment". The minister was of the view that the major reason for losses of discoms is inefficient billing and collections and if that is set right then every discoms would be profitable. The minister said that he has been writing to the states to shift to prepaid metering system so that human interface is removed from the billing as well as the collection process. The minister also highlighted that states are providing power subsidy for certain set of consumers but they need to pay for that to gencos because electricity does not come free. The minister also informed that he has put before the Finance Commission that the non-payment for power supply to gencos should be added to their contingent liability which reduces their borrowing capacity accordingly. On disinvestment of discoms, the minister said the workers unions do not realize that discoms losses are not sustainable. The minister opined that if investments will not come and India will be a power deficit country and then how can it become an advanced country, he questioned. On farm laws facing protests, he said these laws would help in removing intermediaries and will bring investments in agriculture. On power demand in the country, he said it has remained five gigawatt to ten gigawatt higher on a daily basis in December so far and had recorded nearly 12 per cent growth in October year-on-year. (PTI)

The minister was of the view that the major reason for losses of discoms is inefficient billing and collections and if that is set right then every discoms would be profitable

Sensex, Nifty climb to fresh all-time peak

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks darted up to fresh all-time highs on Monday as investors accumulated energy, infra and banking stocks amid supportive macroeconomic cues. A strengthening rupee and robust foreign fund inflows further buoyed sentiment, traders said. After touching its record intra-day peak of 46,373.34, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 154.45 points or 0.34 per cent higher at 46,253.46, its new closing record. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 44.30 points or 0.33 per cent to finish at a record 13,558.15. It hit a lifetime high of 13,597.50 during the session. ONGC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.91 per cent, followed by L&T, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech, Titan and Asian Paints. On the other hand, M&M, Bajaj Auto, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were among the main laggards, dropping up to 1.98 per cent. Global markets were on a firm footing as a last-minute extension to Britain-EU talks calmed fears over a no-deal Brexit. "Domestic equities remained firm and witnessed fresh record highs mainly supported by continued rebound in PSU banks. Barring auto, most of sectoral indices traded in positive range. Notably, volatility index shot up sharply today indicating unease about current valuations of the market. "Positive data flows along with persistent FPI flows have been quite supportive for the markets," said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Burger King shares jump 131% on debut

MUMBAI

In a remarkable market debut, shares of Burger King India on Monday zoomed nearly 131 per cent against its issue price of Rs 60. The stock opened at Rs 115.35, a huge premium of 92.25 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. It later closed at Rs 138.40, a gain of 130.66 per cent. On the NSE, it jumped 125 per cent to close at Rs 135 after opening at Rs 112.50, up 87.5 per cent. The company's market valuation was at Rs 5,282.10 crore on the BSE at the close of trade. On traded volume terms, 191.55 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 18.67 crore units on the NSE during the day. Burger King India's share sale was subscribed a massive 156.65 times earlier this month. The price range for the Rs 810-crore initial public offering (IPO) was fixed at Rs 59-60 per share. The quick-service restaurant chain currently operates 268 stores in India.

Tatas back in race for buying stake in Air India

NEW DELHI

TATA Sons is expected to send in their express of interest (EoI) for national carrier Air India on Monday, industry insiders said. According to highly placed sources, Tata Sons, which owns the industrial conglomerate Tata Group, will send in a direct EoI to buy out the government's stake in the airline. "Tata Sons will be submitting the E o I , " highly placed sources said. However, when contacted, an official spokesperson of the group declined to comment. Speculations have been rife over several months regarding Tatas' interest in their erstwhile airline. Notably, it was Tatas who started Air India prior to the nationalisation of the airline in the 1960s. The last date for the EoI submission is Monday. Besides the Tatas, a group of Air India employees led by the airline's Commercial Director Meenakshi Malik is also expected to send in their EoI. In October, the Centre in an aggressive push to off-load its stake in the national carrier decided to invite bids for Air India, based on the company's enterprise value. The change in criteria will allow for the bidding to take place on the current value of the assets and other resources of Air India. The deadline for the bid submission has also been extended. The deadline for submitting the bids was extended to December 14 from October 30. Similarly, the deadline for announcing the name of those short-listed has also been extended. (IANS)

'Data sciences, tech need to be given due importance'

NEW DELHI

TECHNOLOGY and data sciences need to be given due importance as they bring change in every ecosystem they are part of, OYO Hotels and Homes Founder and Group CEO Ritesh Agarwal said on Monday. "No matter what industry you are in, technology and data sciences will fundamentally enter and re-evaluate how your industry has existed or will exist in future," he said while addressing a panel discussion at the annual convention of industry body, Ficci. Giving the example of the hospitality sector, Agarwal said that OYO serves small hotels and holiday homes across the world and its primary job is to ensure they can better returns. "Opposed to the earlier times, in the new generation, machines do most of the jobs. As a result, small hotels are able to generate two to three times jump in online revenue and the cost of operating substantially reduces," he added.

Time spent on mobiles up 25% in India: Report

NEW DELHI

AMID the pandemic, the daily time spent on smartphone has increased by 25 per cent on average in India, a new study claimed on Monday. While 66 per cent of Indians believe smartphone improves their quality of life, nearly 70 per cent of Indians feel that if their smartphone usage continues to increase, it is likely to impact their mental/physical health, according to the study by smartphone brand Vivo. "Amid the socially-distant lives that the pandemic pushed us to lead, the smartphone emerged as the central nervous system for everything; be it working or learning from home or staying connected with friends and family," said Nipun Marya, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India. Additionally, 74 per cent of respondents said that periodically switching off their mobile phone can help them spend more time with family. However, only 18 per cent of users have actually switched off their phone on their own. According to study titled 'Smartphones and their impact on human relationships 2020', Indians are spending more time on smartphone since lockdown (April 2020), OTT (59 per cent), social media (55 per cent) and gaming (45 per cent). Meanwhile, 79 per cent users agreed that a smartphone helps them stay connected with their loved ones. While smartphone emerged as a necessity and had given much-needed flexibility to people, its excessive usage has triggered addiction.

Burger King shares jump 131% on debut

MUMBAI

In a remarkable market debut, shares of Burger King India on Monday zoomed nearly 131 per cent against its issue price of Rs 60. The stock opened at Rs 115.35, a huge premium of 92.25 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. It later closed at Rs 138.40, a gain of 130.66 per cent. On the NSE, it jumped 125 per cent to close at Rs 135 after opening at Rs 112.50, up 87.5 per cent. The company's market valuation was at Rs 5,282.10 crore on the BSE at the close of trade. On traded volume terms, 191.55 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 18.67 crore units on the NSE during the day. Burger King India's share sale was subscribed a massive 156.65 times earlier this month. The price range for the Rs 810-crore initial public offering (IPO) was fixed at Rs 59-60 per share. The quick-service restaurant chain currently operates 268 stores in India.

Tatas back in race for buying stake in Air India

NEW DELHI

TATA Sons is expected to send in their express of interest (EoI) for national carrier Air India on Monday, industry insiders said. According to highly placed sources, Tata Sons, which owns the industrial conglomerate Tata Group, will send in a direct EoI to buy out the government's stake in the airline. "Tata Sons will be submitting the E o I , " highly placed sources said. However, when contacted, an official spokesperson of the group declined to comment. Speculations have been rife over several months regarding Tatas' interest in their erstwhile airline. Notably, it was Tatas who started Air India prior to the nationalisation of the airline in the 1960s. The last date for the EoI submission is Monday. Besides the Tatas, a group of Air India employees led by the airline's Commercial Director Meenakshi Malik is also expected to send in their EoI. In October, the Centre in an aggressive push to off-load its stake in the national carrier decided to invite bids for Air India, based on the company's enterprise value. The change in criteria will allow for the bidding to take place on the current value of the assets and other resources of Air India. The deadline for the bid submission has also been extended. The deadline for submitting the bids was extended to December 14 from October 30. Similarly, the deadline for announcing the name of those short-listed has also been extended. (IANS)

'Data sciences, tech need to be given due importance'

NEW DELHI

TECHNOLOGY and data sciences need to be given due importance as they bring change in every ecosystem they are part of, OYO Hotels and Homes Founder and Group CEO Ritesh Agarwal said on Monday. "No matter what industry you are in, technology and data sciences will fundamentally enter and re-evaluate how your industry has existed or will exist in future," he said while addressing a panel discussion at the annual convention of industry body, Ficci. Giving the example of the hospitality sector, Agarwal said that OYO serves small hotels and holiday homes across the world and its primary job is to ensure they can better returns. "Opposed to the earlier times, in the new generation, machines do most of the jobs. As a result, small hotels are able to generate two to three times jump in online revenue and the cost of operating substantially reduces," he added.

Time spent on mobiles up 25% in India: Report

NEW DELHI

AMID the pandemic, the daily time spent on smartphone has increased by 25 per cent on average in India, a new study claimed on Monday. While 66 per cent of Indians believe smartphone improves their quality of life, nearly 70 per cent of Indians feel that if their smartphone usage continues to increase, it is likely to impact their mental/physical health, according to the study by smartphone brand Vivo. "Amid the socially-distant lives that the pandemic pushed us to lead, the smartphone emerged as the central nervous system for everything; be it working or learning from home or staying connected with friends and family," said Nipun Marya, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India. Additionally, 74 per cent of respondents said that periodically switching off their mobile phone can help them spend more time with family. However, only 18 per cent of users have actually switched off their phone on their own. According to study titled 'Smartphones and their impact on human relationships 2020', Indians are spending more time on smartphone since lockdown (April 2020), OTT (59 per cent), social media (55 per cent) and gaming (45 per cent). Meanwhile, 79 per cent users agreed that a smartphone helps them stay connected with their loved ones. While smartphone emerged as a necessity and had given much-needed flexibility to people, its excessive usage has triggered addiction.

Burger King shares jump 131% on debut

MUMBAI

In a remarkable market debut, shares of Burger King India on Monday zoomed nearly 131 per cent against its issue price of Rs 60. The stock opened at Rs 115.35, a huge premium of 92.25 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. It later closed at Rs 138.40, a gain of 130.66 per cent. On the NSE, it jumped 125 per cent to close at Rs 135 after opening at Rs 112.50, up 87.5 per cent. The company's market valuation was at Rs 5,282.10 crore on the BSE at the close of trade. On traded volume terms, 191.55 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 18.67 crore units on the NSE during the day. Burger King India's share sale was subscribed a massive 156.65 times earlier this month. The price range for the Rs 810-crore initial public offering (IPO) was fixed at Rs 59-60 per share. The quick-service restaurant chain currently operates 268 stores in India.

Tatas back in race for buying stake in Air India

NEW DELHI

TATA Sons is expected to send in their express of interest (EoI) for national carrier Air India on Monday, industry insiders said. According to highly placed sources, Tata Sons, which owns the industrial conglomerate Tata Group, will send in a direct EoI to buy out the government's stake in the airline. "Tata Sons will be submitting the E o I , " highly placed sources said. However, when contacted, an official spokesperson of the group declined to comment. Speculations have been rife over several months regarding Tatas' interest in their erstwhile airline. Notably, it was Tatas who started Air India prior to the nationalisation of the airline in the 1960s. The last date for the EoI submission is Monday. Besides the Tatas, a group of Air India employees led by the airline's Commercial Director Meenakshi Malik is also expected to send in their EoI. In October, the Centre in an aggressive push to off-load its stake in the national carrier decided to invite bids for Air India, based on the company's enterprise value. The change in criteria will allow for the bidding to take place on the current value of the assets and other resources of Air India. The deadline for the bid submission has also been extended. The deadline for submitting the bids was extended to December 14 from October 30. Similarly, the deadline for announcing the name of those short-listed has also been extended. (IANS)

'Data sciences, tech need to be given due importance'

NEW DELHI

TECHNOLOGY and data sciences need to be given due importance as they bring change in every ecosystem they are part of, OYO Hotels and Homes Founder and Group CEO Ritesh Agarwal said on Monday. "No matter what industry you are in, technology and data sciences will fundamentally enter and re-evaluate how your industry has existed or will exist in future," he said while addressing a panel discussion at the annual convention of industry body, Ficci. Giving the example of the hospitality sector, Agarwal said that OYO serves small hotels and holiday homes across the world and its primary job is to ensure they can better returns. "Opposed to the earlier times, in the new generation, machines do most of the jobs. As a result, small hotels are able to generate two to three times jump in online revenue and the cost of operating substantially reduces," he added.

Time spent on mobiles up 25% in India: Report

NEW DELHI

AMID the pandemic, the daily time spent on smartphone has increased by 25 per cent on average in India, a new study claimed on Monday. While 66 per cent of Indians believe smartphone improves their quality of life, nearly 70 per cent of Indians feel that if their smartphone usage continues to increase, it is likely to impact their mental/physical health, according to the study by smartphone brand Vivo. "Amid the socially-distant lives that the pandemic pushed us to lead, the smartphone emerged as the central nervous system for everything; be it working or learning from home or staying connected with friends and family," said Nipun Marya, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India. Additionally, 74 per cent of respondents said that periodically switching off their mobile phone can help them spend more time with family. However, only 18 per cent of users have actually switched off their phone on their own. According to study titled 'Smartphones and their impact on human relationships 2020', Indians are spending more time on smartphone since lockdown (April 2020), OTT (59 per cent), social media (55 per cent) and gaming (45 per cent). Meanwhile, 79 per cent users agreed that a smartphone helps them stay connected with their loved ones. While smartphone emerged as a necessity and had given much-needed flexibility to people, its excessive usage has triggered addiction.

Burger King shares jump 131% on debut

MUMBAI

In a remarkable market debut, shares of Burger King India on Monday zoomed nearly 131 per cent against its issue price of Rs 60. The stock opened at Rs 115.35, a huge premium of 92.25 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. It later closed at Rs 138.40, a gain of 130.66 per cent. On the NSE, it jumped 125 per cent to close at Rs 135 after opening at Rs 112.50, up 87.5 per cent. The company's market valuation was at Rs 5,282.10 crore on the BSE at the close of trade. On traded volume terms, 191.55 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 18.67 crore units on the NSE during the day. Burger King India's share sale was subscribed a massive 156.65 times earlier this month. The price range for the Rs 810-crore initial public offering (IPO) was fixed at Rs 59-60 per share. The quick-service restaurant chain currently operates 268 stores in India.

WHICH SHOULD BE THE NATIONAL ANIMAL - TIGER OR COW ?

The Hans India readers speak out their mind

The issue to declare Cow as the national animal in place of the Bengal tiger will differentiate the public for one more time. But, what difference will it make in a common man life if the national animal is the tiger or a cow or even a buffalo?
N Rajesh,
private employee, Ongole



The union government didn't make any proposal to make Cow the national animal and I don't think it will dare it. It is just the idea of a few people and we need not take it as a serious issue. But if the cow is really made the national animal, I feel that the voice of non-Hindus must be fading away.
- Thota Naga Jyothi, private employee, Ongole



Tiger was adopted as National animal in 1972, India is a Hindu populous country and cow being a sacred animal can be protected and can be conserved with local laws whereas a tiger needs institutional and world renowned technical support to be conserved.
NVS Revanth,
Student, Agricultural BSc, Khammam



Cow, a harmless domestic animal should be the national animal in the place of a ferocious tiger. Politically speaking, it is symbolically correct as India is a peace loving country and throughout history it never attacked any other country. In view of the above, a cow has major stake to claim to be the 'national animal'.
Goverdhan Ceremilla,
Retired Asst Professor, Hanamkonda



Cow is a symbol of sacredness and the people in the country worship. It's nothing but respecting our customs and traditions. I hope people of other religions accept cow as national animal without triggering any controversy.
Sridhar, Self-employed, Hanamkonda



Cow is a divine animal and worshiped by everyone in auspicious days and functions. I support cow as our national animal. But, the Central government should ban cow slaughter after declaring cow as national animal.
Dr Gubbala Rambabu, Social Activist

Cow is a multipurpose animal. Its dung is used to kill bacteria, urine as medicine and milk is a nutritious food. Without cow, no auspicious programme will be conducted. Cow deserves to be our national animal.
K Venkat Reddy, Hotel Owner

Cow is a spiritual animal. Even in the last rites of a man the cow will be donated to get moksha. I support cow becoming our national animal and on banning cow slaughter.
K Subba Rao
Businessman

Constitution talks about equality of all religions. Our country is secular in character but some political parties are violating the basic tenets of the constitution. We are not against the ban on cow slaughter or supporting cow as a national animal.
K JABEZ DAVID, Social Worker, Anantapur

I support cow slaughtering ban. I had been worshipping cow as a God from my childhood but more than cow slaughter ban it is the atrocities on women that should be totally banned and prevented.
A SHALINI DORA,
Singanamala, Anantapur

The government should distribute cows to every household free of cost and promote cow products on a massive scale as the law useful to anyone. The law does not help the poor in any way nor does the nation need such laws. This is purely a religious gimmick.
S JIVARATNAM, Malolapalli, Narpala Mandal, Anantapur

As a educated person, I support the law passed by Karnataka on banning cow slaughtering. Prohibition of cow slaughtering is not at all enough for obtaining benefit to cow or the Hindu religion. Only politicians are interested to implement new religious policies acts & laws.
Gaffoor Chandana, Advocate, Anantapur

Poll losses keep TRS leaders on edge

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SUCCESSIVE defeats in the elections seem to have made the Telangana Rashtra Samithi leaders restless with many seen making controversial statements and also threatening the journalists. It can be recalled that the TRS has put up a poor show in Dubbaka bypoll and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections. While the TRS got defeated with a slender margin in Dubbaka, the BJP gave a shock to the ruling party in the GHMC elections. As a result, party leaders have been facing embarrassment and have been venting out their frustration. Panchayat Raj Minister E Dayakar Rao, during his visit to Warangal recently, made controversial comments stating that the people of Warangal were

- Besides making controversial statements, many TRS leaders are seen threatening scribes for writing against them
- Political analysts suggest TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao to keep an eye on party leaders and set the things right as early as possible

smarter than citizens of Hyderabad and would vote for TRS for the development to continue. Not only the Minister, other leaders of the pink party were also seen making controversial comments besides threatening the journalists. In this regard, A TRS party leader's outburst on the journalists has gone viral on various so-



cial media platforms. In the audio conversation between Patancheru MLA G Mahipal Reddy and a journalist that went viral on social media, the MLA was heard threatening the reporter of a physical attack if he wrote anything against him. Similarly, another leader of the party in Dubbaka threatened a journalist for forwarding the video conversation of the Patancheru MLA. "We might have lost the elections, but we

will be in power for next three years. Keep this in mind before writing against us," stated the leader in the video, daring the journalist to file a police complaint against him. Even before the elections too, there were heated arguments between MLA R Balkishan and one P Rajashekar Reddy. The MLA was heard using unparliamentary language against the individual for writing against him on the social media. Meanwhile, the political analysts feel that threatening would not fetch votes for the party and added that there was a need for Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to keep an eye on this and set the things right. The party might make changes at the organisation level and entrust responsibilities to certain leaders after December, said a source from the party.

TRS govt weakening Panchayat Raj: Uttam

A protest on PR issues will be held by AICC PR Sanghatan at Indira Park on Dec 22

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President & MP Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday accused the TRS government of systematically weakening the Panchayat Raj system in the State. He was addressing a meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, along with AICC Panchayat Raj Sangathan Vice-Chairman Harshwardhan, State In-charge Kiran, State Chairman Harish, TPCC Working President Ponnamm Prabhakar, MLC T Jeevan Reddy, MLA Jagga Reddy and other leaders. They discussed systematic weakening of local bodies and insulting of Sarpanches, MPTCs, ZPTCs by the TRS government and non-allocation of State government funds to Mandal and Zilla Parishads. It was decided to hold a protest on these issues by the PR Sanghatan on December 22 at Indira Park. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Congress party would organise a day-long protest on December 22 to highlight the problems of Panchayat Raj institutions and a memorandum would be submitted to the Governor. He

reminded that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has empowered the Panchayat Raj institutions across the country by granting them powers and sufficient funds. The TPCC chief alleged that the KCR government has completely crushed the Panchayat Raj system in the State. He alleged that the TRS leaders were looting the Panchayats and forcing them to buy tractors, LEDs, lights and other material from the agencies of their choice so as to get the commission. The TPCC Chief said that meetings should be held at least once in a month or two with Sarpanches and other village leaders to discuss their problems. He said that the ideology of the Congress party should be taken to all villages. He said the local problems should be taken up and efforts should be made to resolve them. He stressed on strengthening the Congress party in rural areas to enable it to return to power in next elections. Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the party cadre to stay among the people and make all efforts to resolve their problems.



Dasoju Sravan bereaved

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ALL India Congress Committee spokesperson Dasoju Sravan's father Dasoju Krishnama Chary passed away due to Covid on Monday. He was admitted to Apollo hospital for treatment. Sravan's mother Dasoju Jogamma, who is also infected with the virus, is still in the hospital. The last rites of Krishnama Chary were held at Amberpet graveyard on Monday afternoon.

HMA awards presented

HYDERABAD

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy, felicitated the winners at the 47th HMA Annual Awards function held here. HMA President Sanjay Kapoor and Immediate Past President Nagesh Vishwanatham, presided over the event. Hyderabad Management Association (HMA) was the first professional organisation to institute an annual award, 'Manager of the Year,' in 1973 to recognise a manager for his/her outstanding achievements as well as contributions to their organization he heads. Since then, the number of awards has gone up to 12. HMA has its presence in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It provides a platform for professionals, academia & management students to stay abreast of contemporary management practices and events shaping the profession and its emerging challenges. The Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on A Shyam Mohan, MD, Corporate Communication Systems India, and Past President of HMA. The Man-

ager of the Year Award went to Saurabh Kumar, CEO, GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo. V Venkatram, MD & CEO, SeedWorks International Pvt. Ltd, won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and Prashanth Reddy, MD, Anvaya Kin Care Pvt. Ltd, Small Scale Entrepreneur of the Year, and Ranganath IVS, Head-HR of Shriram Bioseed Genetics, HR Manager of the Year. Indian Immunologicals Ltd was honoured with CSR Award for the Year. The Women Achiever Award of Excellence for the Year was conferred on Suvarna Bhat, Founder & CEO, Inquisit Innovations P Ltd. The Academician Excellence of the Year Awardee was Prof B Raja Shekhar, Professor, School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad. Best Student Chapter of the Year went to GITAM Hyderabad Business School, while the Member of the Year was Sankara Venkata Krishna Prasad, Director & CEO, Cito Healthcare (P) Ltd. The principal sponsor for the event was Union Bank of India and the associate sponsor was Continental Coffee.



LEGAL NOTES

Court summons Jalpally Municipal Commissioner for inaction

Osman Nagar still inundated in water

HYDERABAD

IRKED over the explanation of Jalpally Municipal Commissioner in not clearing the inundated water in Osman Nagar, the High Court Chief Justice bench on Monday directed the said Municipal Commissioner to appear before the court on Tuesday. The High Court bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijay-sen Reddy heard a plea filed by Syeda Begum, alleging that the inaction of Jalpally Municipal authorities for not clearing the water from Osman Nagar since incessant rains in October, has been causing lot of hard-

ships to the residents of the area. The Chief Justice wanted to know why the water was not pumped out even after two months have passed? Standing Counsel for municipalities N Praveen Kumar informed the bench that the other side of the bund also had a few colonies and there were certain problems in pumping out the water. However, water would be pumped out within a fortnight, he submitted. CJ Chauhan enraged over the Counsel's submission, directed the Jalpally Municipal Commissioner to present before the court on Tuesday and give an explanation for the inaction in addressing the issue.

KCR MISLEADING JOBLESS YOUTH WITH EYE ON MLC POLLS: SHABBIR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir has accused Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of cheating the jobless youth in view of MLC elections for two graduates constituencies of Legislative Council. Shabbir Ali, in a media statement released on Monday, said that the Chief Minister's Office has issued a press release on Sunday stating that Chief Minister has held a meeting with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and other officials and enquired about the existing vacancies in various departments of State government. The CM reportedly directed the Chief Secretary to issue notification to fill those

The TRS party came to power in 2014 on the promise of giving one lakh jobs. It did not fulfil the promise even after seven years. Now, the Chief Minister is giving an impression that he was ignorant of vacancies in government departments," Shabbir Ali, Congress leader



vacancies. "The CM's statement is purely aimed at misleading the jobless youth who are waiting for recruitment for several years. The TRS party came to power in 2014 on the promise of giving one lakh jobs. It did

not fulfil the promise even after seven years. Now the Chief Minister is giving an impression that he was ignorant of vacancies in government departments," he said. The Congress leader pointed out that the Telangana State

Public Service Commission (TSPSC) chairman Prof Ghanta Chakrapani and other members called on Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan on December 10 and submitted the TSPSC annual report. The term of pres-

ent commission is expiring on December 17 and this was the last report prepared by present commission. "The report should be placed in the public domain. It will expose that TRS government's failure towards providing one lakh jobs even after seven years," he said. He said more than one lakh vacancies existed at the time of formation of Telangana and the department-wise figures were disclosed by the CM himself on the floor of the Assembly. Further, he said more than one lakh employees have retired in the last seven years. Thousands of new vacancies have emerged due to creation of new districts. Therefore, there are more than two lakh vacancies in various departments of the State government.



Unbeaten Hyderabad wary of motivated East Bengal

VASCO

HYDERABAD FC will be keen to continue their unbeaten run when they take on a struggling SC East Bengal in an Indian Super League fixture at the Tilak Maidan here on Tuesday.

Four games into the season, Hyderabad FC are one of just three teams that are yet to lose a game (a win and three draws) and they will be eager to convert their efforts into a victory, against the ISL debutants.

SC East Bengal have not had the best of starts to the season. They are yet to score a goal, but logged first point in the league table in a feisty clash against Jamshedpur last Thursday. They remain bottom of the table but could prove to be one of the biggest tests for Hyderabad so far this season.

"With every game, East Bengal are getting better. Their fixtures so far have not been easy. Suspensions and late goals conceded have been the issues for them, but they have been playing some really good football," said Hyderabad head coach Manolo Marquez on the eve of the clash.

"The draw they secured against a physical Jamshedpur side despite playing with ten men for over 70 minutes, is proof of their quality and I expect this game to be a tough test for our side."

Today's Fixture

Hyderabad FC vs SC East Bengal
at Tilak Maidan Stadium 7.30pm

Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler, who is also in his first season as coach, didn't have an ideal pre-season with his squad given their delayed entry into the ISL. "We are a team for the fighters," Fowler said.

"Our spirits are high anyway. In four games that we played, we did okay. Yes, we have been unlucky at times. Players are getting fitter and we would see a better East Bengal team now," Fowler said. But almost a month into the campaign, SC East Bengal are getting used to the methods and are slowly gaining form.

The likes of Matti Steinmann, Jacques Maghoma and Anthony Pilkington have formed a good understanding in the mid-field and in attack, while the likes of Sehnaaj Singh and Scott Neville can provide cover at the back. The absence of Eugeneeson Lyngdoh, who serves a suspension for the red card he picked up in the last round, could affect Fowler's plans for this game.

Asked about not being able to open the scoring account, Fowler, a mean goal-poacher in his heyday said:



"We go out there to win the game. I can't stress enough how tough it has been for us. A lot of decisions have gone against us. We have to show a more self belief like we did in the last game."

However, the Englishman has enough quality in his side to come up with a solution. Hyderabad FC, on the other hand, though unbeaten, have picked up just three points from the last three games. But the consistency of youngsters like Chinglensana Singh, Liston Colaco, Akash Mishra and Hitesh Sharma has been a real asset for the side this season, despite suffering multiple injury setbacks in the opening rounds.

"They (the missing players) are important players for us but this is the reason why the squad has more than eleven players. This gives a great chance for the youngsters in the squad who are showing their quality and proving that they are ready for these games," Marquez said.

While East Bengal have conceded the most goals in the ISL along with Odisha FC, Hyderabad have conceded the least, alongside league leaders Mumbai City. But the stats will not matter when the two equally matched teams take on each other at Vasco. (PTI)

Match Result

Mumbai City FC draw with Jamshedpur FC

1-1



Hyderabad FC players hone their skills during a training session on the eve of Tuesday's game

Won't reveal plans to media for Indians to read about: Lyon

ADELAIDE

HURT and motivated after the 2018-19 Test series loss to India, Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon has said that they have "a few things lined up" for the Indian batsmen for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar series which he wouldn't "reveal to the media".

Among those plans is a mystery ball that he tried on Saturday night during Australia's practice at the Adelaide Oval's centre wicket ahead of the first Test.

"I am not going to reveal our bowling plans to the media for the Indians to read about, but we have a few things lined up which is very exciting. But I think there is a real vibe within the Australian team. So I think we are in a better place than we were two years ago," Lyon told reporters on Monday.

"You always get motivation when you lose a series but you have already got that motivation when you are playing well especially when you are playing for your country so I think it adds to it. We are in such a better place right now," he said and also explained that he has been trying to perfect a mystery ball at the nets.

"Always working on it (my bowling). Working on one (mystery ball) the last night...getting a little bit feedback of the wicket here in Adelaide. I haven't come up with a name. I am very excited. I am in the process. Hopefully we will have a name, probably just before the first Test," Lyon said about the ball without revealing any further details.

The off-spinner has been very effective with the pink ball, taking 28 wickets at an average of under 26 which is lower than his overall career average of over 31. He has had plenty of success against India, grabbing as many as seven five-wicket hauls in 18 Tests. He has taken 85 wickets out his 390 Test wickets against India.

"I have always enjoyed playing against India, (who are) some of the best players in the world, especially playing spin. I have always said I want to challenge myself against best players of spin bowling, so for me this series is about me doing more role within the Australian cricket team."

"We have got a good bowling unit here, the best unit in the world in my eyes so we have to make sure we are doing our stuff and challenging Indians for a long period of time. It is not about personal success. I have had success against India, it is more about playing our role and looking to take 20 wickets in each Test match," said Lyon while adding that he fancies bowling to the Indians as they attack.

"I don't approach (with) my bowling differently when we are playing against India. Over the last five years, my bowling has gone to a new level, I am very confident with the way my bowling is at the moment. That is exciting. But they are very attacking side so they are always trying to attack a spinner which is fantastic and I love that. Love that challenge," he added.

Lyon further said he is happy to see the return of Mitchell Starc whose footmarks he will love to use to bowl to the Indian right-handed batsmen.

"I am working hard on bowling to right-handers. There are so many of them in world cricket. It is not a new challenge for me. I am just looking to really trying to compete against both edges and bringing both edges into play with catches around the bat. Going to be a challenge, but I am lucky that Mitchell Starc is joining the camp. I love his footmarks. Should be good fun," said Lyon.

The four-match Test series starts with a pink-ball fixture at the Adelaide Oval from Thursday.

(IANS)



Henriques in, Abbott out of Aus Test squad

SYDNEY

RIGHT-arm pacer Sean Abbott has been ruled out of the first Test against India while all-rounder Moises Henriques have been added to the Australia squad for the Adelaide game which begins Thursday.

Abbott picked up a calf strain in the day-night tour match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday and will continue his rehabilitation, informed Cricket Australia on Monday. He is expected to re-join the squad for the Boxing Day Test.

Henriques was supposed to play the second warm-up match against India but a scan last Wednesday revealed a low-grade hamstring strain that subsequently ruled him out of the pink-ball fixture. However, the 33-year-old cleared a fitness Test on Monday morning and will join the Australian squad in Adelaide for the four-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Henriques comes in for Will Pucovski who was ruled out of the first Test after he was diagnosed with mild concussion on the final day of the first tour match. Also, Marcus Harris has been recalled to the squad following the injury to David Warner, who suffered an adductor strain in the second ODI against the Men in Blue last month.

Both Pucovski and Warner are targeting a return in the second Test beginning December 26 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, but their participation remains in doubt.

Australia have suffered from a host of injuries in the past one month. Marcus Stoinis (side), Warner (adductor), Ashton Agar (calf and finger), Mitch Starc (back and ribs), Josh Hazlewood (back), Aaron Finch (glute), Henriques (hamstring), Pucovski (concussion), Cameron Green (concussion), Jackson Bird (calf), Harry Conway (concussion) and Abbott (calf) have also suffered injuries at some point or the other in the last 30 days. (IANS)

Hockey team ready to vie on world stage: Reid

BENGALURU

HEAD coach of the Indian men's hockey team Graham Reid believes the players worked extremely hard during the national camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility in the last four months and are now close to the levels -- in terms of fitness, training and skills -- which they showcase in the international matches.

"We have done everything possible to maintain and more recently get the players back to the level they will need to be to compete on the world stage," said Reid.

"Our fitness tests in the strength, weight, speed and muscle components show that we are on target. Our training sessions output data are approaching our February figures (when the team played FIH Hockey Pro League in Bhubaneswar). I believe, we are close to the level we showcase in our international matches," he added.

Reid further commended the level of commitment and determination shown by the team, having dealt with challenges of spending over four months in a bio-secure environment in the SAI facility with no social activities amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Given the extremely difficult circumstances for the last four months, I am pleased with where we are and how the players have conducted themselves in the bio-secure bubble in SAI. In a normal year, you have four-six weeks in camp and the players get 1 week off to spend with their friends and family," said Reid.

"On the weekends they normally leave the campus and visit the mall or cinema etc. However, this year there has been none of that and has been a very tough mental test for all of us. But I am happy with the way players have handled this situation," he added.

The head coach further stated that he is hopeful the team gets to play international matches early next year.

"With the support of Hockey India, we have planned for matches from early in the next year. These matches will ideally show us the level we are truly at and the areas that will require work on leading into the Olympic Games."

Expressing the importance of this break, the 56-year-old said, "It is extremely important for them to relax mentally and physically after a very hectic past four months. This break will help not just the players but also the coaching staff the opportunity to hit the refresh button and be ready for next year." (IANS)



VALLUVAR NAGAR FC CHAMPS



Kiwis cruise to series win over Windies at Basin Reserve

WELLINGTON: New Zealand on Monday completed the formalities of clinching series whitewash against West Indies as they won the second and final Test by an innings and 12 runs, thereby boosting their hopes of reaching the ICC World Test Championship final. Despite a debut fifty for West Indies' Joshua da Silva, pacers Tim Southee and Neil Wagner took two wickets each to ensure victory on Day Four of the Test match at the Basin Reserve. Resuming at 244/6, overnight batters Jason Holder and da Silva could add just eight more runs to the total as Southee bowled a beauty to sneak through Jason Holder's defence as the Windies captain went for 61, before Alzarri Joseph came to the crease. He blasted three fours and two sixes on his way to a quickfire 24 from 12 ball before he became Southee's second victim of the day. da Silva stuck around to score his maiden Test fifty but his innings was cut short by Wagner who had the West Indies batter out lbw at his individual score of 57. **Brief Scores:** New Zealand 460 allout, West Indies 131 and 317 (Jason Holder 61, John Campbell 68; Neil Wagner 3/54). (IANS)

Neymar stretchered off in PSG's 1-0 defeat to Lyon

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain have been deprived of the top spot in Ligue 1 after the three-time defending champion was beaten by Lyon 1-0 at home Sunday's slump for PSG at the Parc des Princes sent the first place to Lille, who defeated Bordeaux 2-1 earlier in the day. Lyon is second on goal difference while PSG is one point off in third. Marseille is fourth one further point behind but with two games in hand, reports Xinhua news agency. What added to the woes of the capital club was the injury of its ace forward Neymar, who was screaming in agony and clutching his ankle after a heavy tackle from Thiago Mendes. The Brazilian star was carried off on a stretcher and Mendes was shown a direct red card. "No news about Neymar," PSG's head coach Thomas Tuchel said after the game, which was the fourth defeat for PSG this season. "He's with the physio and the doctors and we have to wait for the test tomorrow," Tuchel added. Tino Kadewere scored in the first half to help Lyon extend its unbeaten run to 11 games. (IANS)

MAFC wins Int'l Football for Friendship Award 2020

NEW DELHI: Minerva Academy Football Club's project 'Online Learning- A Covid-19 Special Initiative', which was the only project from India to be shortlisted amongst the finalists for the 2020 International Football for Friendship Award, has been awarded 'Best In Category' under the category 'Stadium is Where I Am: Improving Football Skills'. Football for Friendship, the International Children's Social Program launched by Gazprom, established the first award in the world highlighting virtual initiatives in the field of children's football with an objective to enable the football community to gather the best practices of fostering love for sports and universal human values in youngsters in the era of digital. Participants from over 100 countries submitted their projects in order to make football accessible to each and everyone regardless of caste, race, gender or religion. Apart from Minerva Academy FC from India, football development institutions from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Russia and Nigeria were in contention for the award. (IANS)