



Forecast: Showers late. Overcast. Temp: Max.31°C. Min.24°C. Humidity: 61% Sunrise: 06:02 Sunset: 06:29

THE HANS INDIA

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UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat at the Badrinath Temple on Tuesday

Centre brings Lakshmi Vilas Bank under moratorium

Curbs on withdrawals

NEW DELHI: The Union government on Tuesday said Lakshmi Vilas Bank has been brought under moratorium effective 6 pm, November 17 until December 16 and has restricted withdrawals of more than ₹25,000 per borrower during the period of moratorium. The step was taken by the government, on the advice of the Reserve Bank, in view of the declining financial health of the private sector lender.

Congress ex-Mayor Sampath Raj held in B'luru riots case

BENGALURU: Bengaluru Central Crime Branch police on Tuesday arrested former mayor and Congress leader R. Sampath Raj, who was wanted in Bengaluru riots case. The Bengaluru Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sandeep Patil confirmed the media through WhatsApp stating just "YES", he has been arrested. Raj has been absconding from a hospital for the last one month where he was admitted after he was "tested Covid-19 positive".

Gupkar Gang an unholy global gathbandhan: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has been and will always remain an integral part of India and termed an alliance of political parties of the Union Territory as 'Gupkar Gang' saying it is an "unholy global gathbandhan" against the country's national interest. In a series of tweets, Shah also questioned Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi whether they support the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a conglomerate of regional and national political parties in Jammu and Kashmir formed to demand the restoration of the Article 370, scrapped last year.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MODI AT BRICS SUMMIT Countries supporting terrorism must be held accountable: PM

NEW DELHI

IDENTIFYING terrorism as the 'biggest problem' that the world is facing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said there was a need to tackle the menace in an organised manner.

"Terrorism is the biggest problem the world is facing. We have to ensure that the countries that support and assist the terrorists are also held guilty," Modi said, while addressing the 12th BRICS summit hosted by Russia via videoconferencing. Although Modi did not name any country, his reference is seen as directed at Pakistan.

The 12th BRICS summit, hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, was also attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

This is the second time that Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping shared



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the BRICS summit via videoconferencing in New Delhi on Tuesday

the virtual platform this month. Earlier, both leaders had shared the platform on November 10 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, where Modi had said that all member nations of the SCO should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Indian and Chinese soldiers are locked in a border standoff at Ladakh for the last six months.

Calling the theme 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth' not only relevant but also far-

sighted, Modi said questions are being raised on the credibility of the global institutions. He emphasised on reform of institutions like IMF, WTO, WHO to gain credibility. The Prime Minister also asserted that India post-COVID can be a force multiplier for the global economy. "India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will also work in interest of humanity to tackle COVID crisis."

At the virtual summit, Modi said, "India and South Africa have made Covid-19 vaccine treatment and screening agreements. A waiver has been proposed. The purpose of the Russian BRICS chairmanship in 2020, as it is for multifaceted cooperation between the BRICS countries, is to contribute to raising living standards and quality of life of our people," a Russian statement said.

"Despite the current global situation due to the spread of the coronavirus infection, the activities under the Russian BRICS Chairmanship in 2020 are carried out in a consistent manner.

As per directions and guidelines of the Centre, 200 participants were earlier allowed in wedding ceremonies due to decreasing number of coronavirus cases. Now, a proposal has been sent to Lt Governor Anil Baijal for his approval to withdraw the previous order and bring the number of guests for wedding ceremonies back to 50 from 200," he said.

COVID HOTSPOTS IN MARKETS

Kejriwal seeks power to impose lockdown in Delhi

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday sought power from the Centre to impose lockdown in those markets which may emerge as Covid-19 hotspots and decided to withdraw an order allowing 200 guests to attend wedding functions. Addressing an online media briefing, Kejriwal said his government has sent a proposal to Lt Governor Anil Baijal to allow only 50 people to attend wedding ceremonies against the earlier limit of 200.

"As per directions and guidelines of the Centre, 200 participants were earlier allowed in wedding ceremonies due to decreasing number of coronavirus cases. Now, a proposal has been sent to Lt Governor Anil Baijal for his approval to withdraw the previous order and bring the number of guests for wedding ceremonies back to 50 from 200," he said.



reimposition of lockdown in the national capital since the third wave of the coronavirus has peaked out in the city. Jain had also said the virus cannot be contained through lockdown and that people should protect themselves by wearing face masks.

During the media briefing on Tuesday, Kejriwal thanked the Central government for helping people of Delhi in "such difficult times" and appealed to Delhites with folded hands to wear masks and follow social distancing norms.

Continued on Page 5

Rain, gusty winds bring pollution levels down

NEW DELHI

THE national capital's air quality improved significantly to the 'moderate' category on Tuesday as rain and stronger winds helped bring down pollution levels, authorities said. According to the Central Pollution Control Board's mobile application SAMEER, the city recorded an air quality index of 168, which falls in the 'moderate' category, much better than Monday's AQI of 221, which falls in the 'poor' category.

During Diwali, it was seen many that people were not wearing masks and violating social distancing norms due to which the coronavirus spread very much, he said. "I hope the crowd in the markets will thin out and there will be no need to lock them down. However, if violations of mask wearing and social distancing are witnessed and there is chance of these markets becoming local coronavirus hotspots, these could be shut down as a preventive measure for some days, said Kejriwal.

On Monday, Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said there was no chance of

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

"Surface winds are west-southwesterly and energetic, very favourable for pollutant dispersion. Rainfall along with stronger winds under the influence of western disturbance helped clean the build-up of pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plain," it said. It also said effective stubble fire counts with sufficient potential estimated from SAFAR-multi-satellite products are significantly reduced to around 98.



BJP protests ban on Chhath Puja in Delhi

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

POLITICS has started intensifying in Delhi on the ban on Chhath Puja in Delhi.

The Purvanchal Morcha of the BJP demonstrated outside Chief Minister's residence on Tuesday. The protesters have demanded permission for Chhath Puja. The BJP says that it is unfair to ban the offering of Sun God.

"It is the responsibility of the Delhi government to arrange electricity and water and install a disaster management team. Like other festivals, the government should issue guidelines for Chhath, he said.

State BJP president Adesh Gupta says that there is anger among the people of Purvanchal living in Delhi due to the ban on Chhath Mahaparva by the Delhi government.

This decision has increased the problems of those who fast. He said that under the special cleanliness campaign, councillors of BJP-ruled Municipal Corporation have cleaned Chhath Ghats.

It is the responsibility of the Delhi government to arrange electricity and water and install a disaster management team. Like other festivals, the government should issue guidelines for Chhath, he said.

CHHATH HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government has issued orders declaring public holiday on Friday 20 for Chhath festival. Significantly, due to the increasing infection of coronavirus in Delhi, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has issued orders that Chhath will not be organized in public places this in the capital city. People are advised to perform Chhath Puja in their homes this time.

"On the basis of the information, a trap was laid near the millennium park, Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi and around 10.15 p.m., two suspected militants who are residents of J&K were apprehended.

"They have been identified as Abdul Latif Mir from District Baramulla, J&K (22), Mohd Ashraf Khatana, a resident of District Kupwara, J&K (20), Sanjeev Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Special Cell said. Two semi-automatic pistols along with 10 live cartridges were also recovered from them. Further investigations were on, said police.

2 suspected militants from J&K held in Delhi

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police Special Cell have arrested two residents of Jammu and Kashmir from the national capital's Sarai Kale Khan area. The arrests were made on Monday night.

Promised Land". Obama says he had never been to India before his Presidential visit in 2010, but the country had "always held a special place in my imagination".

"Maybe it was because I'd spent a part of my childhood in Indonesia listening to the epic Hindu tales of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, or because of my interest in Eastern religions, or because of a group of Pakistani and Indian college friends who'd taught me to cook dal and keema and turned me on to Bollywood movies," Obama writes.

'Spent childhood listening to Ramayana'

WASHINGTON

Former US President Barack Obama says in memoir



FORMER US President Barack Obama said he has always held a special place for India due to his childhood years spent in Indonesia listening to the epic Hindu tales of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

"Maybe it was its (India's) sheer size, with one-sixth of the world's population, an estimated two thousand distinct ethnic groups, and more than seven hundred languages spoken," Obama writes on his fascination of India in his latest book 'A

Promised Land'.

Obama says he had never been to India before his Presidential visit in 2010, but the country had "always held a special place in my imagination".

"Maybe it was because I'd spent a part of my childhood in Indonesia listening to the epic Hindu tales of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, or because of my interest in Eastern religions, or because of a group of Pakistani and Indian college friends who'd taught me to cook dal and keema and turned me on to Bollywood movies," Obama writes.

Hearty Welcome to KTR

BIZZ BUZZ
Business e-Daily
(The HANS Group of Publications)

Launching Today Evening by

Sri Kalvakuntla Tarakarama Rao
Hon'ble Minister for IT, Industry & MA & UD.

Venue: Kapil OAKWOOD, Financial District,
Gachibowli, Hyderabad.



Ensuring better digestion of your kids

There's more to your child's digestion than meets the eye, it starts with food or drink entering his mouth and continues until everything he has eaten or drunk has been eliminated by his body. His digestive system is responsible for breaking down all that he ingests and for extracting all the nutrients needed by his body.

Take the following steps to ensure better digestive health for your child:

Get more exercise

Limit your child's sedentary activities like playing computer games or watching TV. Instead, encourage him to get his body moving and his blood flowing. Make sure he squeezes in a total of at least 60 minutes a day for any sort of exercise, such as brisk walking, running, jogging, aerobics, yoga, futsal or badminton. The beauty of it is that he doesn't have to do it all in one shot. Physical activity and exercise will help him maintain a healthy weight.

Any kind of exercise that increases his breathing and heart rate is great for his digestion, as it helps to stimulate his intestinal muscles, thus, helping food to move more efficiently through his intestines.

Maintain a healthy diet

Observe the principles of balance, moderation and variety; this means your child should have a balanced diet, which includes foods from all five food groups in the Malaysian Food Pyramid. Eat in moderate portions and have a diet that consists of a variety of foods that will meet nutritional needs.

Be sure to include plenty of fibre-rich foods in your child's diet as they help soften stool, thus, preventing constipation and reducing symptoms of digestive disorders such as haemorrhoids and irritable bowel syndrome. Some of the best sources of dietary fibre are

child's digestive organs have time to rest between meals.

Drink plenty of water

Water has zero calories, so your child should drink water instead of other things such as sodas or store-bought fruit juices. More may be required if it is a hot day or if your child engages in strenuous activity to replace the fluids he loses through perspiration. Drinking sufficient water will ensure his digestive health by keeping his stool lubricated so that it travels through his intestines more easily. However, be careful not to overdo it by making him drink too much water too quickly as it can lead to hyponatraemia, which is a condition where the electrolyte levels in the blood become dangerously diluted.

Get enough prebiotics and probiotics

The inside of your child's intestines is filled with bacteria, and it is vitally essential that the balance of beneficial and harmful bacteria is maintained. One of the ways you can

ensure this balance is kept is by eating foods that are rich in probiotics and prebiotics.

Probiotics can be found in foods such as yogurt, cultured milk, cheese and tempeh. Prebiotics can be found in foods such as whole grains, oatmeal, bananas, legumes, onions, garlic and honey.

Limit fat, salt and sugar intake

You should limit your child's intake of foods that are high in fat, salt or sugar, such as chips, savoury crackers, cakes, pastries, fries, sodas and store-bought fruit juices. Your child's body doesn't need them, and they contain a lot of other ingredients such as preservatives or food colouring. Various problems may result from high fat, salt and sugar intake, like indigestion and diarrhoea, as well as malnutrition and chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, so take care not to neglect your child's digestive health. Remember, a better digestive health means a healthier and happier child!

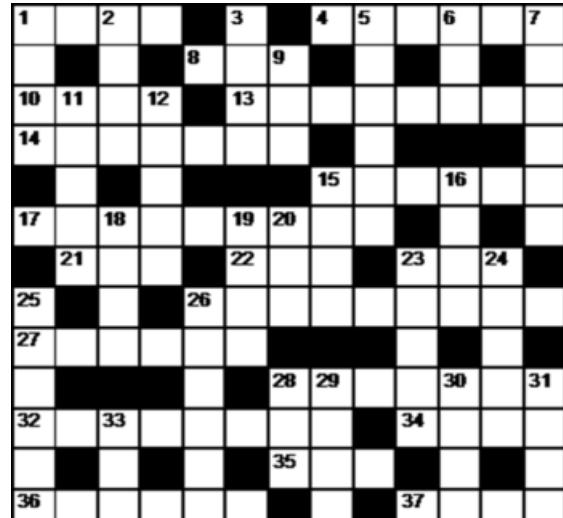
With a regular schedule, your

child's digestive organs have time to rest between meals.

For more information, consult a

pediatrician or dietitian.

By Dr. Sunita Chawla



ACROSS

1 Type of lily (4)

4 Heirs (6)

8 An unruly crowd (3)

10 Leg joint (4)

13 Tale-teller (8)

14 Denser, more in weight (7)

15 Joined (6)

17 Assailant (9)

21 Successful film (3)

22 Choose, select or vote for (3)

23 Virus that causes AIDS (3)

26 Absence of oxygen (9)

27 Paigles - "lop six"

anagram (6)

28 Americans (7)

32 Diplomatic etiquette (8)

34 The frozen crystals of rain (4)

35 Jeering cry (3)

36 Extemporizes (2-4)

37 A small swelling (4)

CROSSWORD

Down

1 Egyptian symbol of life (4)

2 Eye part (4)

3 Most dogs like to gnaw one (4)

5 Bend (6)

6 Frequently (3)

7 Long pace (6)

9 Ingot of iron (3)

11 Sound of horse (5)

12 Turn outward (5)

15 Small particle (4)

16 Fluent in speech (4)

18 Piscine organ (4)

19 Male offsprings (4)

20 A mineral spring resort (3)

23 Sells or pawns - "shock"

anagram? (5)

24 Bird with a cup-shaped nest (5)

25 Commotion (6)

26 Poise (6)

28 Teenage lou (3)

29 Bitter fruit (4)

30 Be jealous of (4)

31 Study hard (4)

33 A bird that hoots (3)

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 17



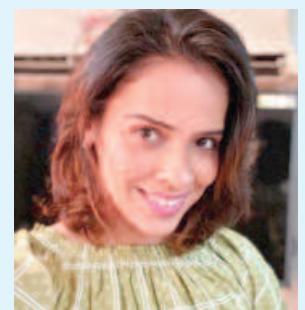
SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 17



TWEET PATROL



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<https://grazia.co.in/people/celebrity-gadgets-saina-nehwal-on-how-tech-fuels-her-day-6207.html>



Beauty hacks for brides-to-be

PUJA GUPTA

FOR brides-to-be, there is no substitute to a consistent skincare routine and a well planned pre-bridal appointment with a dermatologist. If you haven't done so until the last moment, these quick remedies will help you look your best on your big day.

Remove makeup before bed Double cleanse your face by using micellar water followed by a mild face wash to remove makeup completely before you sleep. If you are too tired by the end of the day, keep alcohol-free makeup remover wipes at your bedside for a quick cleanse.

Chapped lips fix

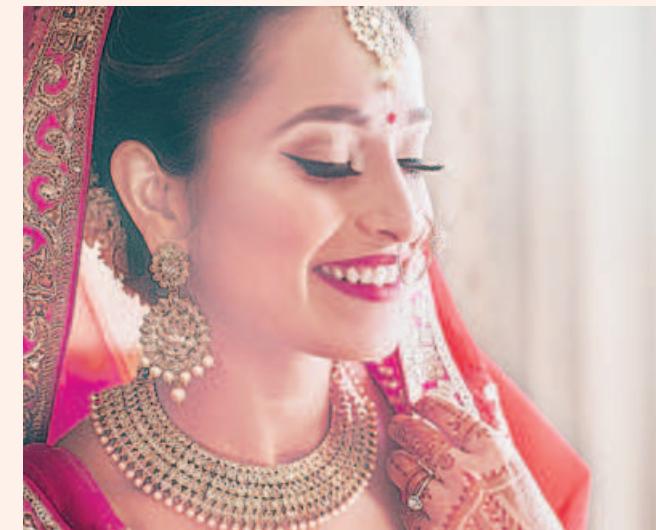
For instantly soft and lipstick-ready lips, mix sugar, coconut oil and honey and apply over lips. Leave on for 10 minutes and gently exfoliate lips with a clean toothbrush.

De-puff eyes

To avoid eye puffiness, elevate your head by using an extra pillow under the head when sleeping. This will prevent fluid pooling under the eyes. To temporarily reduce undereye puffiness, place chilled (brewed) green tea bags over closed eyes for 10 mins.

Acne fix

Waking up with a pesky zit is



Don't experiment

Last minute changes to your skin care routine might do more harm than good, since there isn't enough time to recover from an unexpected reaction. Closer to the D-day, avoid any new products or treatments and stick to what you know suits your skin best.

Watch your diet

A week prior to the wedding, avoiding excessive consumption of dairy and high sugar foods will help prevent acne flares and bloating. Especially for those prone to rosacea, limiting intake of alcohol and spicy foods will ensure no redness flares.

Style your scarf, this winter

From cool ways to tie them around your neck to unexpected placement, there is no shortage of inspiration for wearing this essential accessory. Here are a few ways for you to style your scarf this winter season:

The french knot

Just fold the scarf in half put it around your shoulders. Take one loose end piece and pull it over and under the scarf loop. Take the second end piece and go under and over the same loop.

Knotted necklace

Wrap the scarf behind your neck. Take one end and wrap it around your hand. Pull it through to make a loose knot. Take the other scarf end and pull it through the side knot, going under the knot loop and then over.

The necklace

Fold a long scarf half lengthwise. Grab the diagonal ends and knot them together. Put it over your neck, then twist it and loop again.

Double sided twist

Put two of your favorite scarves back to back. Loop once around your neck and turn the fabric so that you see both sides.

Scarf wrap

The easiest way to wear a scarf! Just wrap it around your shoulders.

The Wrist Wrap: Fold your scarf diagonally at your desired width, wrap twice around your wrist and secure in a knot.



The cold shoulder

Roll your scarf diagonally, wrap once around your neck with the ends facing back, loop and tie loosely on one side.

The Borrowed-From-The-Boys

Start with a diagonally rolled scarf, each end should be equal length when draped in front. Take the right side and wrap over the left side, then under, and over again. Pull the right side up towards your chin, then tuck under the fold.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Neeti Mohan joins musical world of 'Trolls'

Singer Neeti Mohan has given a musical touch to the Hollywood film, Trolls World Tour, as it gears up for big screen outing in India.

The film will be released in India in English and Hindi on November 19, and Neeti has sung three songs for the Hindi dubbed version of the popular animated musical comedy.

Neeti sang songs for the character of Poppy that have been sung by Anna Kendrick in the English version. The three songs for the film are -- the romantic track "Koi geet gao", the rock song "Iss pal ko jio" and the peppy title track "Trolls toh karenge fun".

She shares, "Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen. Poppy is a free-spirited soul who is a 'go getter' and the character inspires its audiences to a great extent. Which is why getting the chance to be 'Poppy Mohan' was one of the best things of all time if you ask me. Speaking about the dubbing experience, it's not easy to translate songs or dialogues to another language. Despite that, I had a blast recording those three songs and I feel that this is an experience that's going to last forever. With the movie all set to release in theatres, cinephiles couldn't have asked for a better musical treat to mark their return to the cinemas."

Trolls World Tour is directed by Walt Dohrn, with co-direction by David P. Smith. The sequel of the 2016 release, Trolls, follows two trolls who discover that there are six troll tribes representing the musical genres pop, funk, classical, techno, country, and rock.

The Hollywood film features voices of Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Rachel Bloom, Ozzy Osbourne, Kunal Nayyar, James Corden, Ron Funches, Kelly Clarkson, Anderson Paak, and Sam Rockwell.



Not satisfied with Centre's affidavit on pleas over media reporting: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the Centre's affidavit in the case related to media reporting of Tablighi Jamaat congregation here during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, and said the government should consider setting up a regulatory mechanism to deal with such contents on TV.

Observing that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's affidavit did not deal with the applicability of Cable Television Network Act (CTNA) in the case, the apex court said the government has the power to put a regulatory mechanism in place and it cannot be left to an outside agency like NBSA (News Broadcasters Standards Authority). "We want to know the

mechanism employed by you and this affidavit has nothing on it. Why should we refer to NBSA etc. when you have the authority to look into it. If it does not exist then you create an authority. We can also hand it over to an outside agency," said a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde.

The top court, which was hearing the pleas filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others alleging that a section of the media was spreading communal hatred over Tablighi Jamaat congregation during the onset of pandemic, asked the Centre to file a fresh affidavit dealing with mechanism to regulate electronic media under the CTNA.

The congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz in the national capital in March, attended by thousands of Indian and foreign nationals, was cited as being responsible for acceler-

TABLIGHI JAMAAT CONGREGATION



ating the spread of coronavirus or COVID-19, with its attendees allegedly carrying the infection to different parts of the country. So-

citor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, referred to the freedom of speech and expression of the media and

said that NBSA is a part of the self-regulatory mechanism. The apex court however asked the Centre to consider creating a regulatory mechanism and apprise it on the issue. It said the government should also inform as to what steps have been taken under the CTNA.

"First you did not file a proper affidavit and then you filed an affidavit which did not deal with the two important questions. This way it cannot be done Mr Mehta," the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, told the law officer. "Mr Mehta, we are not satisfied with your reply. We wanted you to tell us to what actions you have taken under the Cable TV Network Act," said the bench, also comprising. The top court said further said: "We want to know what is the mechanism to

deal with these contents on television. If there is no regulatory mechanism then you create one."

Regulation cannot be left to organisations like NBSA," Mehta told the bench that several actions have been taken under the Act. "You have to tell us how you have acted under Cable TV Act in some prior incident," the bench said, questioning Mehta as to why the Centre has not created a body to regulate these things.

The bench said it had asked the Centre to specify how CTNA could be used to control the content of cable TV network and also about steps which could be taken to deal with such complaints but the affidavit is silent on these aspects.

The top court has posted the matter for hearing after three weeks.

China pushing weapons into India, Myanmar

NEW DELHI

EASY flow of Chinese weapons illegally into Myanmar and India is posing threats to regional security and stability, intelligence agencies have flagged to the Indian government.

From the northeastern states of India, a total of 423 illegal weapons, including AK-47s, M-16s and Chinese pistols, have been recovered so far this year.

Intelligence agencies have also said that China is supplying arms and ammunition to insurgent groups on the Myanmar border as they pay good prices.

Prominent insurgent groups, especially those from Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, maintain regular contact with Chinese intelligence agencies and have benefited from Chinese largesse and weapons," the agencies alerted the government.

The agencies have pointed out that training of insurgent groups in the northeast, provisioning of arms and ammunition and harbouring exiled militants and leaders have been recurrent facets of China's 'diplo-terrorism' against India. Myanmar lies at a very strategically significant location. It provides an alternate land bridge to the trade routes of the Indian Ocean, easing the pressure on the Malacca Straits and is a trove of natural resources to fuel the growth of the landlocked Yunnan Province.



Moreover, Myanmar under Chinese sphere of influence helps stymie India's growth in the region. Sources said that recently a large consignment of Chinese made weapons comprising AK 47 assault rifles, machine guns, anti-tank mines, grenades and ammunition of a total value of approximately \$1 million was seized in Mae Sot district on the Thai side of the Myanmar-Thailand border. This seized cache of arms is not the only consignment of Chinese weapons that has made its way into the region.

Earlier this year, a large cache of 500 assault

rifles, 30 Universal Machine Guns, 70,000 ammunition rounds, a huge stock of grenades and significantly, a few F-6 Chinese Manpads, were offloaded at Monakhali beach near the coastal junction of Myanmar and Bangladesh. From there, the consignment reached the Arakan Army Camp in Sandak and then it was further smuggled into Rakhine using the Parva corridor in South Mizoram. The seized weapons were original Chinese made and were meant to be smuggled to insurgent groups on the Myanmar border as they pay good prices.

UP engineer in CBI net for sexual abuse of children

NEW DELHI

THE CBI has arrested a junior engineer of Uttar Pradesh irrigation department for alleged sexual exploitation of children for last 10 years and selling videos and photographs of nefarious acts on dark net to other paedophiles across the globe, officials said Tuesday.

He is alleged to have victimised about 50 children in the age group of 5-16 years in the districts of Chitrakoot, Banda and Hamirpur, they said. He was arrested from Banda and is likely to be produced before the competent court soon.

During searches, the CBI has recovered eight mobile phones, cash around eight lakh, sex toys, laptop, and other digital evidence carrying huge amount of child sexual abuse material, they said. It is alleged that the junior engineer was operational for the last 10 years, mainly contacting and sharing child sexual abuse material with other paedophiles globally using dark net and cloud services abroad, they said.

He is understood to have told the investigators that he used to bribe the children with mobile phones and other electronic gadgets to keep their mouth shut about his activities, they said.

Cong counters Shah, questions PDP alliance

NEW DELHI

did the BJP form the government with them.

Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, saying "either the Gupkar Gang swims along with the national mood or else the people will sink



it". He dubbed the alliance as the 'Gupkar Gang'.

Shah asserted that Jammu and Kashmir will always remain an integral part of India, accusing the Gupkar alliance of support to the foreign forces for their intervention in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PAGD is an amalgamation of mainstream political parties of J&K.

In a series of tweets, the Home Minister said 'the Gupkar Gang is going global but they insult India's Tricolour'.

MP govt to bring law against 'love jihad', 5-year jail: Minister

Bhopal

THE BJP government in Madhya Pradesh is planning to introduce Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020 in the next session of the state

Assembly in view of the rising incidents of "love jihad", state Home Minister Narottam Mishra said here on Tuesday. The bill proposes a rigorous imprisonment for the period of five years for luring a person through fraud and forcing marriage by reli-

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VISIT TO KOLKATA'S KALI PUJA

B'desh cricketer forced to apologise

DHAKA

"THEN again, maybe I shouldn't have visited the place at all. And if that is what you have against me, I am very sorry...I would try to make sure that this never happens again," says Shakib Al Hasan while apologising to the fundamentalist person and his associates, who threatened to kill the Bangladeshi all-rounder.

Last Thursday, Shakib went to Kolkata via the Petrapole border to inaugurate a Kali Puja in the Beleghata area of the West Bengal capital. He was seen praying in front of the idol. He then returned to Bangladesh on Friday.

On his YouTube channel, the Bangladeshi cricketer has now opened up about two controversial issues involving him and has apologised for his actions which triggered waves of criticism on social media. On the matter of the Kali Puja ceremony, he has offered an apology firsthand.

"In the news here or on social media, it has been said that I went there to inaugurate the ceremony. I did not go there to do it, neither did I do it. You can easily verify this. As a 'conscious Muslim' I wouldn't do that either," said Shakib. "The incident is ob-



viously very sensitive. I want to start by saying that I think of myself as a 'proud Muslim' and that is what I follow. Mistakes could happen...If I did make any mistake, I ask for your forgiveness," he added. The 33-year-old went on to say that the ceremony had already begun when he arrived at the place and he spoke about the time he spent there.

Another controversy erupted after the cricketer allegedly tossed away and broke the mobile phone of a fan while on his way to India at Benapole's international immigration check-point.

India records dip in new cases

NEW DELHI

THE number of new coronavirus infections reported in a day dropped below 30,000 after four months, taking India's COVID-19 caseload to 88.74 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday. The last time India reported less than 30,000 COVID-19 cases was on July 15. The total coronavirus cases mounted to 88,74,290 with 29,163 infections being reported in a day while the death toll climbed to 1,30,519 with 449 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 82,90,370 while the number of active cases remained below 5 lakh for the seventh consecutive day. There are 4,53,401 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 5.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. The total recoveries have surged to 82,90,370 pushing the national recovery rate to 93.42 per cent, while the COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.47 per cent. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 12,65,42,907 samples have been tested up to November 16 with 8,44,382 samples being tested on Monday.

The 449 new fatalities include 99 from Delhi, 60 from Maharashtra, 53 from West Bengal, 26 from Chhattisgarh, 22 from Punjab and 21 from Uttar Pradesh. A total of 1,30,519 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 46,034 from Maharashtra followed by 11,541 from Karnataka, 11,495 from Tamil Nadu, 7,714 from West Bengal, 7,713 from Delhi, 7,393 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,881 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,480 from Punjab and 3,808 from Gujarat.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Trump's standoff an embarrassment, may raise Covid death toll: Biden

NEW YORK

As the standoff continues between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden over the election results, the Democrat it was an international "embarrassment" and the administration's failure to cooperate with the transition team could lead to more people dying from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It's more embarrassing for the country than debilitating for my ability to get started" on his administration, Biden said on Monday about Trump's refusal

to admit defeat even though he had appeared to do so but then changed course.

Biden said that he was in contact with international leaders, from the pope to prime ministers who were calling with "some degree of enthusiasm," and with business and trade union leaders to get ready for taking over on January 20. He was speaking to reporters in Wilmington after he and his running mate Kamala Harris met with business chiefs, including CEOs Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Sonia Syngal of

Gap, and labour leaders on his economic plan. Appealing to the Republicans, he said, "I will work with you. I understand a lot of your reluctance because of how the President operates." Trump had tweeted a back-handed admission of defeat on Sunday morning, "He won because the Election was Rigged." But hours later he made U-turn tweeting, "RIGGED ELECTION. WE WILL WIN!" Then, he made a more definitive tweet, "I WON!" Biden said that this showed that "there was no change in his

modus operandi." He ridiculed Trump's response to the crisis: "The idea the President is still playing golf and not doing anything about it is beyond my comprehension." Biden warned that as the pandemic rages if Trump doesn't cooperate with the transition on the Covid-19 strategy and vaccine plans, "More people may die."

Pharmaceutical company Moderna announced on Monday that its vaccine had a 94.5 per cent efficacy and Pfizer said last week that its vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective.

Impact of RCEP and Indian market

Fifteen Asia-Pacific economies formed the world's largest free trade bloc on November 15, a China-backed deal that excludes the United States, which had exited Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a rival Asia-Pacific grouping under President Donald Trump. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, aims in coming years to progressively lower tariffs across many areas.

The deal was signed on the sidelines of an online ASEAN summit held as Asian leaders address tensions in the South China Sea and tackle plans for a post-pandemic economic recovery in a region where U.S.-China rivalry has been rising. In an unusual ceremony, held virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic, leaders of RCEP countries took turns standing behind their trade ministers who, one by one, signed copies of the agreement, which they then showed triumphantly to the cameras. "RCEP will soon be ratified by signatory

countries and take effect, contributing to the post-COVID pandemic economic recovery," said Nguyen Xuan Phuc, prime minister of Vietnam, which hosted the ceremony as ASEAN chair.

RCEP will account for 30 per cent of the global economy, 30 per cent of the global population and reach 2.2 billion consumers, Vietnam said. "Touch wood" one might say as India has opted out of it to protect its own interests. China's finance ministry said the new bloc's promises include eliminating some tariffs within the group, including some immediately and others over 10 years. Ironically, the agreement was bereft of any details regarding the products and products that would see immediate reduction of tariffs in any of the countries entering into the pact.

All countries of the group might have considered the implications to them to some extent at least. Still, there are no answers from anyone on how it will help reduce or remove tariffs on industrial and agricultural products and also on how the data transmission rules will

be drafted. India pulled out of the talks exactly a year ago. For India several pending outstanding issues have to be resolved before entering this block.

The problem for India is with the yawning trade deficit with China. We have an over 50 billion dollar trade deficit with China. The other countries merely signed on the dotted line concluding text-based negotiations for all 20 chapters of the proposed deal last year itself. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that the deal in its present form does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of RCEP. He was clear that the Indian Government measured the agreement with respect to the interests of all Indians.

The agreement gives inadequate protection against surges in imports and hence India has been seeking an auto-trigger mechanism. Yet another irony is that such an international deal does not address concerns on a possible circumvention of rules of origin. China could route its products through any country. If Indian market is to be opened, then it should have a matching reflection elsewhere. India sought 2014 as the base year for fixing import tariffs (the year in which it raised the tariffs) but was not met.

Sahibi Nadi: How a river was killed

RITU RAO

In his book, *The Biology of Belief*, American biologist Bruce Lipton narrates a peculiar tree killing technique practised by the tribes of the Solomon Islands. The tribals encircle a tree and curse it relentlessly. Apparently, the tree eventually dies.

Here, Lipton seeks to highlight the power of the subconscious mind to convert positive or negative sentiments into self-fulfilling prophecies. You may take Lipton's story with a pinch of salt. But, it appears to be working in case of our commons (water bodies, grazing lands, sacred groves, etc).

Nala, a Hindi word that once meant a channel for carrying stormwater as well as rivulet or stream, has degenerated to signify only a dirty channel of water. Drain, that once signified a channel to drain something, especially rainwater, has come to mean a channel carrying wastewater.

While it may be difficult to pinpoint the exact moment these terms underwent degeneration, it seems to coincide with urbanisation, which came at a cost to our commons. Their value was lost on the community, with hassle-free availability of finite resources through utilities, predicated a disconnect with our natural heritage.

A particularly poignant story playing out right before our indifferent eyes is that of the Sahibi nadi (river) aka Sahibi, Sabhi or Sabi. At one time, this river might have held perennial flow as is evident by the presence of several Indus Valley Civilization sites on its banks as well as those of its tributaries, the Sota, Krishnavati and Dahan.

Scholars have identified the Sahibi river with the Drishadvati river of the Vedic period. We have willfully overlooked the rich heritage the nadi represents. Presently, this ephemeral river rises phoenix-like from some of the most arid regions of India. It flows from the Siwai hills in Sikar district in Rajasthan.

It goes forth, collecting the waters of almost 100 tributaries. In its upper reaches, the Sahibi drains parts of Rajasthan like Alwar and the southern districts of Haryana like Rewari. In its lower reaches, it receives the waters of the Indori nala near Pataudi and Badshah nala further north. Beyond Pataudi to the north, the nadi extends in two directions: north-west and north. The latter course used to join the Yamuna via the Najafgarh jheel (lake) and drain number 6. The former used to link it with the Jhajjar depression and drain number 8, which also joins the Yamuna. Downstream of the Najafgarh jheel on the Delhi side, the nadi used to drain into the Yamuna just before Wazirabad through a channel now famously known as the Najafgarh drain. The Najafgarh drain gets its name from the Najafgarh jheel.



Nothing remains of the fort today, except for the Najafgarh village, which is fast getting urbanised. Najaf Khan's tomb lies right next to the Safdarjung flyover, around a kilometre each from Safdarjung's tomb and the Lodhi Gardens as well as the hyperactive INA market.

The Najafgarh drain on the Delhi side is a creation of a more recent time wherein the government of the North-West Province in 1865 excavated the irregular channel of Sahibi (An antique map of 1807 of the Environs of Delhi depicts the channel of Sahibi nadi as Sabee nullah – a series of jheels connected through small streams draining into the Yamuna) from the eastern end of the jheel to the Yamuna. This was done to drain the jheel and create more cultivable land.

Owing to its long passage through arid and sandy country, the Sahibi flows with strength only during the rainy season. Heavy floods were recorded in 1845, 1873, 1917, 1930, 1933, 1960, 1963, 1972 and 1977.

To check the entry of Sahibi waters in Delhi, a regulator was constructed at Dhanwa in 1964, along with a bund on the Delhi side of the jheel. Again, in response to the great flood in 1977 that affected far-off places like Janakpuri in Delhi, the Masani barrage was constructed on the Delhi-Jaipur highway near Masani village in Rewari.

Several smaller dams have also been constructed throughout the hills of Ra-

jasthan to store rainwater. The construction of dams has restricted the flow of water in the nadi and it is now rare for water overflow from monsoon rains to reach up to the Masani barrage.

The construction of the barrage not only sealed the fate of the Sahibi but also that of Najafgarh jheel, along with the Najafgarh drain. One of the fundamental rights of a river is to flow. Another is to receive tribute from its tributaries while simultaneously paying tribute to a larger river.

Killing the Sahibi prematurely at Masani barrage and not allowing it to meet Yamuna, is a violation of its fundamental rights. It is amazing that nature has a way to cling on despite humanity's best efforts to undermine or destroy it. Several important wetlands lie in a series along the current and paleochannels of the Sahibi river.

While legislation is in place to protect rivers, the wheels turn ever so slowly. The River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 is a document with an ambitious scope. It ordains applicability to the states comprising the Ganga basin, including Haryana and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It brings the Ganga and all its tributaries (which includes the Yamuna as well as its tributaries such as the Sahibi nadi) and their respective flood plains under its ambit. It explicitly prohibits construction of any sort in such flood plains. However, this order is being

observed in its breaches particularly on the Haryana side of the Sahibi and its wetlands in Gurugram.

Meanwhile, the Najafgarh drain is the largest contributor of sewage (55-60 per cent) to the Yamuna in Delhi, which, in turn, has been declared, alarmingly, dead for all practical purposes. The pollutants from the Najafgarh jheel and the drain are leaching into the soil and contaminating the aquifers.

However, it wasn't always like this. Sohail Hashmi talks about days that don't go back very far. Upto the 1960s, the drain had clean water to sustain fish and people used to catch fish in it.

Hashmi particularly narrates an event of the early 1960s, when a vanaspatti (vegetable oil) factory at Zakhira accidentally discharged large amounts of vanaspatti into the nearby Najafgarh drain.

Since it was winter at the time, the vanaspatti solidified in the drain water. The water was so clean at that time that people in the surrounding areas collected the vanaspatti from the drain for use in their homes.

The Sahibi's story is the story of all rivers in India. They have been reduced to the latter meaning of the terms nala and drain, especially in urban areas. This is true for not just water bodies but for all commons.

The writer is a PhD scholar at Teri School of Advanced Studies and works on urban water bodies. Views expressed are personal. Courtesy: Down To Earth

LETTERS

Huge bill of HMWSSB

We have been given a notice by the HMWSSB demanding a payment of around Rs 2.26 lakh (with waiver of exorbitant interest amount charged under OTS Scheme -- Can nos --063111668 and 063152223) being the sewerage charges from the year around 2013. No intimation whatsoever has been given by the department as on date except for the above notice. We are pensioners residing in the address with no other income except for the pension amount. We do not understand as to why the government is so harsh and merciless by asking honest tax-payers to pay after around seven to eight years.

Are they not duty bound to inform us for so many years? I request the CM to kindly waive 50 per cent of principal amount along with the interest amount waiver already announced and extend the payment date by at least a month so as to enable us to make the payment to the department.

The government should know that we make prompt payments of property tax etc regularly and it is the duty of the government to motivate honest tax-payers also.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

India should revisit RCEP

The formation of trade bloc, excluding India with 15 countries which constitute thirty per cent of global economy is a significant development. In post pandemic scenario losing out such big market may not abode well for India. But India cannot embrace the bloc at the cost of its own interests. The relations between India and China are not congenial at this moment. India has blocked many apps and goods of that country to show its disapproval over the latter's misadventures at our border.

Though Australia and Japan are in QUAD against China, they didn't hesitate to join the trade bloc in which China is a major player. At the end of the day, only self interests matter.

While searching for trade relations with other markets like Europe and America, India should keep its options open for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnerships too, as isolation from neighbouring market is not a good idea.

It should improve its bargaining power and leverage by working on self reliance.

Dr DVG Sankararao, Nellore

Chinese moves deserve a closer look

As per the editorial - Can China be trusted again (November 17). The eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China at Chushul did not make headway despite India sincerely discussing modalities in

pulling troops from the forward areas of the LAC, to give a meaningful shape to disengagement and de-escalation on the ground level in the area.

China's rigid and irrational move, in insisting on shifting Indian troops from Kailash as well as from the Finger 4 strategic heights will not hold water as China is blind to its expansionist designs on various sectors on the Line of Actual Control. There is no point in India vacating these heights it occupied, post - Galwan, on the intervening night of August 29-30.

Now, China is virtually at the doorsteps of India, with few options open to us to correct the situation. The future talks must also include and centre on foolproof solutions and agreements to prevent and thwart China from such military adventurism in future.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

SC judge move praiseworthy

It refers to Justice UU Lalit recusing himself from the three-member bench of Supreme Court set up to hear writ filed against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister who made public his charges against a Supreme Court judge. But it was a welcome initiative of Justice UU Lalit who mentioned reasons for recusal that he had earlier been a lawyer for one of the parties involved in the case.

Otherwise it is a usual practice that recusing judges do so without giving any reason for recusal. It should be made compulsory for all judges from Supreme Court to trial-courts to record reason for recusal from the case on the

file. Moreover any such recusal should be informed immediately on setting up the bench or listing of such a case before a judge so that a new bench may be there for hearing without requiring any postponement of the hearing. Recusal though after giving reasons just on beginning of hearing wastes precious court-time. To prevent chances of local influence, all High Court judges should be compulsorily appointed from outside their home-states.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, Delhi

Covid-19 is a blessing in disguise

An analysis of the Covid-19 and its impact on the day today life of human lives goes to show that it has turned into a blessing in disguise. Be it in any field - health and medicine, education, communication, transportation, business and anything related to our daily chores, we can feel and experience that there is a change taking place and in some spheres - a real revolution.

Look at the way we have begun to focus on personal hygiene . Practices such as these will bring down communicable diseases and also make us aware of such fatal illnesses . The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly boosted our health infrastructure. Vaccines and medicines are getting ready and already there is a change and surge in the medical equipments and devices. So many novel health devices have emerged giving a complete facelift in the medical field.



China pushes weapons into Myanmar, India

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH

Easy flow of Chinese weapons illegally into Myanmar and India is posing threats to regional security and stability, intelligence agencies have flagged to the Indian government. From the northeastern states of India, a total of 423 illegal weapons, including AK-47s, M-16s and Chinese pistols, have been recovered so far this year.

Intelligence agencies have also said that China is supplying arms and ammunition to insurgent groups on the Myanmar border as they pay good prices. Prominent insurgent groups, especially those from Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, maintain regular contact with Chinese intelligence agencies and have benefited from Chinese largesse and weapons," the agencies alerted the government.

The agencies have pointed out that training of insurgent groups in the northeast, provisioning of arms and ammunition and harbouring exiled militants and leaders have been recurrent facets of China's 'diplomatic terrorism' against India.

Situation in Myanmar

Myanmar lies at a very strategically significant location. It provides an alternate land bridge to the trade routes of the Indian Ocean, easing the pressure on the Malacca Straits and is a trove of natural resources to fuel the growth of the landlocked Yunnan Province.

Moreover, Myanmar under Chinese sphere of influence helps stymie India's growth in the region.

Sources said that recently a large consignment of Chinese made weapons comprising AK 47 assault rifles, machine guns, anti-tank mines, grenades and ammunition of a total value of approximately \$1 million was seized in Mae Sot district on the Thai side of the Myanmar-Thailand border.

This seized cache of arms is not the only consignment of Chinese weapons that has made its way into the region. Earlier this year, a large cache of 500 assault rifles, 30 Universal Machine Guns, 70,000 ammunition rounds, a huge stock of grenades and significantly, a few F-6 Chinese Manpads, were offloaded at Monakhali beach near the coastal junction of Myanmar and Bangladesh. From there, the consignment reached the Arakan Army Camp in Sandak and then it was further smuggled into Rakhine using the Parva corridor in South Mizoram. The seized weapons were original Chinese made and were meant to be smuggled to insurgent groups on the Myanmar border as they pay good prices.

In Myanmar, China is currently supplying arms and ammunition to the Arakan Army, which is active in Chin and Rakhine states of Myanmar bordering Mizoram. China is now using the Arakan Army, an Arakanese armed group declared as a terrorist organisation by Myanmar, to limit India's inroads through the Kaladan Multi Modal Transport and Transit Project. The Arakan Army was raised in 2009, under the Kachin Independence Organisation along the China border - the same year the Kaladan project was declared by India. In 2019, when a phase of the Kaladan project was nearing its completion, the Arakan Army shifted its area of operation to Rakhine and Southern Chin.

More than 593 instances of clashes between the Arakan Army and Myanmar were reported in 2019, majority of which were in close proximity to the Kaladan Project. The Arakan Army, however, has always kept its anti-Kaladan activities below a certain threshold to not raise the ante. "Nevertheless, there have been more than four instances of targeting of shipments/attacks on Myanmar Army providing security and abductions (claimed to be mistaken identity) which overall has severely impeded the execution of the project," the agencies said.

Interestingly, the Arakan Army has also declared its decision to levy taxes on the Indian project, while in the same breath it has exempted all ongoing Chinese projects in the region. Sources also said that China provides up to 95 per cent of Arakan Army's fundings.

Chinese weapons supplied through Bangladesh and Thailand clarifies that projects carried out by India in Myanmar are under threat. "Presence of an Indian project in close vicinity of the landmark China Myanmar Economic Corridor starting in Kyaukpyu is an excellent reason for China to stall India's growth in the region," the source said. The source also stated that the Myanmar Army has acknowledged the 'Hunting with the hounds and running with the foxes' strategy of China, even to the tune of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing bringing up the issue with visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping in January 2020. China had then categorically denied it.

The education field is another one that has gone for a complete revolution. At the beginning online learning and teaching did create some hiccups but now it has become the new normal and a trend. Along with this the production of gadgets meant for such learning processes is picking up speed and in recent months have seen the rise of so many online cyber platforms channels.

Education has become cyber-centred and now it is like anything possible for the teachers and the students. They learned by themselves how to operate and present what they wished to showcase and it is for sure that tomorrow's generation will be doing their daily chores with the help of Cyber technology. IT professionals now enjoy work staying at home

Staying at home has helped members of the family to bond with one another and the real values of family relationship is back . Story telling by grandparents is back and many of the parents have begun to have a first-hand experience to teach , coach and understand their children .

Business is back in almost all sectors and there is a remarkable hike in cash e-transactions . A boost in vehicle business is also seen happening as families and individuals -middle and lower middle class - have switched on to using their own vehicles. OTT platforms have begun to entertain cinema buffs who can now relax at home and enjoy with their family . Sports events are being conducted in bio-secure bubbles giving priority to players health and safety. Post Covid, such bubbles are going to come up for spectators too.

M Pradyu, Kannur



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy and his wife having darshan of Lord Balaji at Tirumala on Tuesday

TN CM prays at Tirumala

TIRUMALA

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy along with his family members had darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy on Tuesday in Tirumala.

The Veda pandits offered him Vedasirvachanam in Rangayakula Mandapam. TTD EO Dr K S Jawahar Reddy offered him theertha prasadams.

TTD board member and MLA from TN Kumaraguru, CVSO Gopinath Jatti, temple DyEO Harindranath were also present.



Jagan fulfilling Naidu's promises too: Vijayasai

AMARAVATI

YSRCP senior leader and Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is not only fulfilling the promises he made but also some of his predecessor's.

"We have seen leaders who fulfilled election promises and the ones who didn't. But we are now witnessing a leader (Jagan) who is not only fulfilling his promises but also the ones made by his predecessor (Naidu)," claimed Reddy.

On the unfulfilled predecessor's promises, he was referring

to TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

"Rs 510 crore amount and Rs 1,180 crore evaded by Naidu," he said about the YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu (zero-interest crop loans).

Earlier, he said Visakha Port Trust will install an additional capacity of 14.75 million tonne apart from upgrading infrastructure and expanding the existing jetties, container terminal and others.

"With an estimated cost of Rs 4,095 crore, Vizag port will soon be one of the leading ports in the country," Vijayasai Reddy added.

- The amount is deposited in the accounts of 14.58 lakh farmers under interest subsidy for 2019 kharif crop loans under YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu Scheme

- Besides, Rs 132 cr is credited to 1.98 lakh farmers towards input-subsidy for crops damaged in Oct

- Says milk procurement by Amul will commence on Nov 26 in three districts of Prakasam, Chittoor and Kadapa

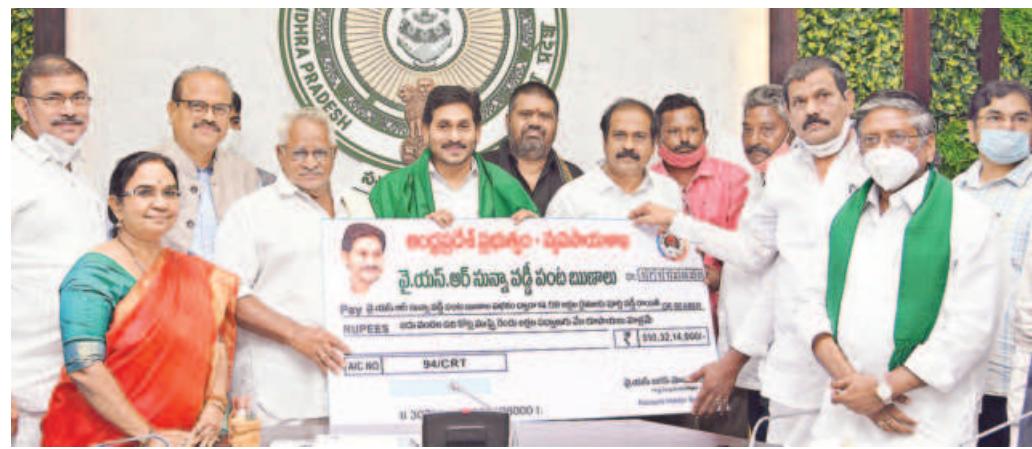
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday released the amount under YSR zero-interest (YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu) scheme besides the input subsidy to the crop loss in October heavy rains. He also said that the milk procurement in association with Amul will begin from November 26 in three districts in the first phase.

Addressing the beneficiaries and officials through videoconference at his camp office, the Chief Minister said that the government has been giving priority to farmers and during the last 17 months, it has taken up schemes which were unique in the entire country and the timely subsidies have been instilling confidence among the farmers.

As promised earlier, the amount Rs 510.32 crore was deposited into unencumbered bank accounts of 14.58 lakh eligible farmers towards interest subsidy for 2019 kharif crop loans under YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu Scheme and Rs 132 crore was credited into the bank accounts of 1.98 lakh farmers' towards input-subsidy for the damaged crops in October.

The government is providing



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy releasing a cheque for YSR Zero-Interest Crop Loan Scheme at his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday. Ministers and officials are seen.

input subsidy to the farmers to cover the losses in the same crop season, where the subsidy for kharif losses between June and September has already been paid, which was about Rs 135.73 crore, by compensating 1.66 lakh farmers. For the month of October, Rs 132 crore input subsidy was credited now.

The state has signed an MoU with Amul and the milk procurement would begin from November 26 in the three districts of Prakasam, Chittoor and Kadapa and will be extended to other districts as well to help dairy farmers and women self-help groups. In all, around 9,800 Bulk Milk Cooling Units (BMCU) will be set up in the RBKs across the state.

He said about 90 per cent of the election promises were fulfilled during the 18 months in office. YSR Rythu Bharosa, the first of the promises of Navaratnalu, was successfully implemented and the promised amount of Rs 12,500 for four years was increased to Rs 13,500 for five years.

The government has set up 10,641 Rythu Bharosa Kendras

(RBKs) to benefit the farmers, though not promised during elections. The Chief Minister said like never before, the list of beneficiaries is being displayed at RBKs for transparency and social audit. No eligible farmer is being left out and in case if someone misses out, they are given a chance to apply within one month time and can approach RBK or call 155251 toll free number.

"We have recently given the second list of payments as well. The state stands by the farmers from seeds to marketing," he said.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the previous TDP government had burdened the farmers with a debt of Rs 1,180 crore towards interest subsidy. The earlier government had miserably failed in implementing the loan waiver scheme pushing the farmers in to debt and making them bank defaulters. The TDP government had also left a debt of Rs 8,655 crore for free power subsidy to farmers, Rs 960 crore for paddy procurement and Rs 384 crore for seeds-subsidy and tjeor government had cleared all the dues, he said.

He said the YSRCP government has completed the capacity building of feeders to provide free power to farmers at a cost of Rs 1,700 crore and only 10 per cent are yet to be upgraded which will be completed by this month end, he said.

Towards crop insurance, the government will be paying the premium while farmers will have to pay just Rs 1. The state will be paying Rs 1,800 crore towards insurance in December. The state has purchased Rs 15,000 crore worth paddy during 2019-20 and during Covid, Rs 3,200 crore worth commodities like sweet lime, banana, maize, millet, tobacco, onion, turmeric, tomato and others were purchased.

Farmers who interacted with the Chief Minister expressed their gratitude and lauded him for his farmer-friendly schemes.

Ministers K Kannababu, Ch Venugopal Krishna, Avanti Srinivas, AP Agri Mission vice-chairman MVS Nagi Reddy, officials of agriculture, marketing, representatives of various banks were among those present at the event.

AP witnesses 1,395 fresh cases, 9 deaths

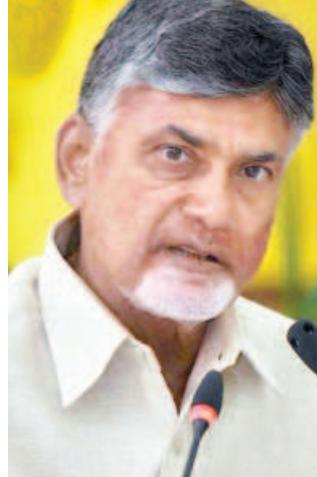
AMARAVATI

STATE reported 1,395 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total to 8,56,159 on Tuesday.

In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday, as many as 2,293 patients got cured, increasing the total recoveries to 8,32,284.

Nine fresh fatalities took the overall toll to 6,890, the latest bulletin said.

The active cases in the state fell further to 16,985, it said. After a total of 92.64 lakh sample tests, the infection positivity rate stood at 9.24 per cent while the recovery



rate improved further to 97.21 per cent.

The mortality rate remained stable at 0.80 per cent, according to the government data.

Krishna district added 260, West Godavari 247, East Godavari 214, Guntur 199 and Chittoor 137 fresh cases in the 24 hours.

The remaining eight districts reported less than 100 new cases each. Chittoor, Krishna and Visakhapatnam districts saw two more Covid-19 deaths each while Anantapur, East Godavari and Kadapa saw one each, according to the bulletin.

THE state government has inducted opposition leader and TDP national president N Chan-

Govt includes Naidu in State security panel

Tulasi Reddy criticises ₹1 L limit to zero-interest scheme

HANS NEWS SERVICE

KADAPA

obtained crop loan from State Bank of India Vempalle branch, 3,600 borrowed more than Rs 1 lakh, which means they were ineligible for the scheme.

Tulasi Reddy said the sealing of the scheme was against the YSRCP's election manifesto which promised to implement zero-interest loan scheme to all farmers without any restrictions.

He recalled that the scheme was already announced by Congress October 2, 2011 during N Kiran Kumar Reddy government.

drababu Naidu in the state security commission.

The state government has amended the earlier government order issued on October 10 on the commission which now includes Naidu as well.

"In compliance with the or-

ders of the Supreme Court of India, the Governor of AP hereby makes the following amendment to AP state security commission rules," said the amended order.

The commission is headed by state home minister Mekathotl Sucharitha and will also be represented by the leader of opposition in the Assembly, Naidu.

Other members include chief secretary, director general of police and five persons of eminence.

Out of the five persons, at least one person should be from the weaker sections.

NREGS BILLS

State can't hold Central funds, says TDP leader

- TDP leader says they are going to send 10,000 letters requesting the intervention of Vice-President in getting bills cleared
- States that the State govt is yet to pay Rs 170 cr to farmers for the paddy it procured three months ago

HANS NEWS SERVICE

NELLORE

TDP politburo member Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said that the state government has no right to stop funds released by the Centre and hence they were sending 10,000 request letters to the Vice President of India for clearing pending bills to the contractors who completed works under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, the former minister said even contractors in the Vice-President's own mandal were not paid for the works taken up under R-Urban Scheme.

Chandramohan Reddy alleged that officials kept the bills in pending saying that the legislator had objected to them even though they received funds from the Centre.

He said they were going to ask the Vice-President to utilise his powers for clearing the pending bills and added that the Centre should warn the state as was the case of Power Purchase Agreements. The TDP leader said that the state government was yet to pay ₹170 crore to the farmers for the paddy procured three months ago. In Gudur and Godavari districts, farmers dues amount to ₹1,000 crore. He said there was no progress on the demand for probe into purchase of paddy at a lesser price and sale at higher price.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

VIZIANAGARAM

FORMER Union minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju alleged that the state government was deliberately targeting them and defaming the MANSAS trust and other organisations. "It is completely unlawful. Undemocratic. One day, the people will respond to all these developments," he said.

Addressing the media here on Tuesday, he reacted strongly to his removal from the post of chairman of some temples in East Godavari under the Trust and appointment Sanchaita in his place.

- Expresses his ire at his removal from chairman post of some temples in East Godavari under the Trust and appointment Sanchaita in his place
- Accuses the YSRCP govt of trying to erase the glorious history of MANSAS
- Asserts that he will not join BJP, will continue in TDP till the last



Former Union Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju addressing the media in Vizianagram on Tuesday

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The state government terminated Ashok as chairman of MANSAS trust including the post of Simhachalam temple trust board and appointed Sanchaita Gajapathi Raju.

"It seems that the government is eyeing the temples, which have good income and have huge assets like lands and treasure. The government is grabbing the temples by issuing GOs from backdoor. It should be noted that the income generated from the temples is not our own and we never touched even a single paisa from those temples. As

chairman, I developed 37 temples, which were ignored previously. The public is witnessing everything and they would respond in right time," he said.

Referring to the speculation that he would join BJP, Ashok clarified that he had been with TDP right from its inception and would not change his loyalty to any other party till last breath.

Sapthagiri Express between Tirupati and Chennai is back

V PRADEEP KUMAR
TIRUPATI

INDIAN Railways has been gradually increasing the number of trains during the last six months. Now, the South Central Railway (SCR) has announced the restoration of special train between Tirupati and MGR Chennai Central from November 19.

It may be recalled that all trains were stopped across the country since the Janata curfew on March 22 which was followed by lockdown.

Various railway zones have announced some special trains to run from June 1 and the number was being increased keeping in view the requirements and Covid situation.

Some special trains were introduced during the Dasara and Deepavali festivals while some trains have been cancelled due to low patronage.

The Tirupati - Chennai Central Sapthagiri Express was a much sought after train for many to travel between the two cities. Many businessmen and others used to travel by that train which takes 3.15 hours journey duration. It was not easy to get a confirmed ticket for that train in a short time. During the unlock period, people have been looking eagerly for the restoration of this train.

At last, the SCR has decided to operate this train with 06057/06008 numbers. Accordingly, train number 06057 will depart MGR Chennai Central at 6.25 am on November 19 and arrive at Tirupati at 9.40 am. Enroute, this special train will stop



- The train will be resumed from tomorrow after a gap of 8 months
- Normally, there is good demand for the train and it always witnesses 100 per cent occupation

more than 100 per cent occupation on November 19 last year and bookings have already started now. He added that they will get clarity on running more trains in December.

According to Tirupati station Director S Nagaramana Sarma, more than 20 trains were passing through Tirupati station now starting from only one train on June 1. Four trains - Narayanadri, Rayalaseema and Amaravati Express daily trains and Visakhapatnam-Tirupati weekly double-decker were originating from Tirupati itself.

Meanwhile, the SCR has announced another weekly train 02659/02660 between Nagercoil and Shalimar from November 22. It will pass through Chittoor, Tirupati, Renigunta, Nellore and Ongole among other stations.

Ashok alleges bid to tarnish image of MANSAS by govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE

VIZIANAGARAM

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Former Union Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju addressing the media in Vizianagram on Tuesday

"All this is being done for you and your family. So I appeal to you, please, please, please wear face masks and follow social distancing," the chief minister said. The coronavirus does not differentiate between the rich and the poor and it can infect anyone, but some people think they may not contract the virus, he added.

Delhi has witnessed a spurt in novel coronavirus cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-

mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on Wednesday. On Thursday, 104 coronavirus-related deaths, the highest in over five months, were recorded in the city. On Monday, Delhi recorded 3,797 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4.89 lakh, even as 99 new fatalities pushed the toll to 7,713. These relatively low number of fresh cases came out of the 29,871 tests conducted on Sunday.



THE

HANS BUSINESS

TODAY'S QUOTE

Solar water pumps will bring green revolution

Using solar energy for powering water pumps can bring second green revolution. This can be achieved through green energy as this will facilitate solarisation of water pumps. Besides providing cheaper and green energy, this also provides alternative source of income to farmers

— Power Minister R K Singh



COVID

ONGC doubles down on capex spending

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC on Tuesday said its capital expenditure during the current fiscal is likely to be close to the Rs 32,500-crore target as it is doubling efforts to make up for the time lost due to the pandemic. Covid-19 outbreak has disrupted the supply chain

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.92
Euro	92.77
UAE Dirham	22.29
Thai Baht	2.84
British Pound	102.5
Australian Dollar	57.23
Canadian Dollar	59.77
Swiss Franc	85.02
Singapore Dollar	58.15

DELHI WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2020



BIZ BRIEFS

Wipro plans buyback

IT services major Wipro on Tuesday said its shareholders have approved its up to Rs 9,500 crore share buyback plan. Wipro's board of directors had last month approved a buyback proposal for purchase of up to 23.75 crore equity shares at Rs 400 per share, aggregating to an amount of up to Rs 9,500 crore. "Resolution (special resolution seeking approval for buyback of equity shares) has been passed by members through postal ballot by remote e-voting process with requisite majority," the company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. The voting, which started on October 18 and ended on November 16, saw 99.78 per cent.

Kia Motors' new initiative

Kia Motors India, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kia Motors Corporation, announced its contactless paperless aftersales and personalized vehicle service ownership experience. This entails an 'advanced pick and drop' programme, ensuring highest customer safety with no contact pickup and drop service and live vehicle tracking in a completely paperless process by launching a new 'My Convenience' service initiative, which offers personalized vehicle maintenance to its customers. Tae-Jin Park, Executive Director and Chief Sales Officer, said, "In this unprecedented time, customer safety is an utmost priority and we are proud to be the first OEM in India to introduce a complete contactless, paperless aftersales process. The newly launched 'My Convenience' initiative is a testament to this fact, which not only offers quality service but also a personalized vehicle maintenance program to our patrons."

PMJ launches new collections

PMJ Jewels has created a festive collection crafted with beautiful Forevermark diamonds, the diamond brand from the De Beers Group. It designed two sparkling collections crafted with natural and genuine Forevermark diamonds. The Traditional Setting Collection and the Circle of Trust Collection, both are a perfect harmony between traditional motifs and contemporary designs. These collections will be available at Forevermark's key retail partners. "Diwali is an auspicious occasion for people to make big purchases, like diamond jewellery, and we wish to offer our consumers with some of the exquisitely crafted Forevermark diamond jewellery by PMJ Jewels. Our association with Forevermark reinforces the idea of offering our customers the best quality," said Dinesh Kumar, MD, PMJ Jewels.

Chrysalis signs pact with CAE

CAMBRIDGE Assessment English (CAE), a part of the University of Cambridge, has signed an MoU with Chrysalis, a learning transformation organization, in India. Chrysalis, through this partnership, will offer an English language learning and assessment programme for all their partner schools, with the assessment powered by Cambridge English. As part of the programme, students can take an online assessment that has a baseline and end of year test in two important skills of English language - listening and reading and will receive a detailed personalized assessment report. T K Arunachalam, Regional Director - South Asia, Cambridge Assessment English, said, "Cambridge has been keenly focusing on India-centric solutions for the last few years and as part of this endeavour, we have partnered with Chrysalis who have been successfully providing transformational learning in schools".

Goldman Sachs ups India's GDP forecast on vaccine hopes

Projects 10.8% contraction in FY21, forecasts 13% growth rate in FY22

MUMBAI

FOREIGN brokerage Goldman Sachs on Tuesday upgraded its India GDP forecast to a contraction of 10.3 per cent in FY21, as against its earlier estimate of a negative growth of 14.8 per cent.

The US-based firm said developments on the vaccine front - where two candidates have posted satisfactory progress - will be very helpful in the recovery. The Reserve Bank expects India's GDP to contract by 9.5 per cent on real basis in the ongoing fiscal because of the impact suffered by the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic. The GDP will stage an impressive recovery in FY22, with a growth of 13 per cent on the low base and benefits of the vaccine, Goldman Sachs said in a report.

"There is still a high degree of uncertainty around the outlook - and growth could significantly overshoot or undershoot these forecasts - depending on the course taken by the virus and vaccine-related developments in the coming year," it said. It expects a normalisation in the containment policies and mobility re-



GDP will stage an impressive recovery in FY22, with a growth of 13% on the low base and benefits of the vaccine, Goldman Sachs said in a report

- Upgrades India's growth forecast to a contraction of 10.3% in FY21
- Sees rebound in economic activity from 2021
- Headline inflation will decline 2-6% by mid-2021
- GDP will stage an impressive recovery in FY22

strictions only in mid-2022, once a vaccine is deployed.

A meaningful rebound in economic activity will happen from 2021 itself, it said, adding that consumer-facing services sectors will stage a faster recovery. However, the pace of the rebound will be restrained by some "economic scarring", and a number of factors like a weak labour market, the hit to private sector incomes and balance sheets, tighter credit supply conditions and a limited impetus from fiscal policy, it said. Headline inflation is likely to decline towards the mid-point of the RBI's target band of 2-6 per cent by mid-2021 as food prices fall

on easing supply restrictions, a benign monsoon and favourable base effects, it said.

Core inflation could also moderate given low manufacturing capacity utilisation and appreciation in the rupee. This will result in the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cutting rates by 0.35 per cent next year, it said, adding that the panel with three new members has a dovish tilt. The brokerage further said it will be overweight on Indian equities on the macro recovery and relatively higher sensitivity of Indian stocks to positive vaccine outcomes and added that appreciation pressures on the rupee will persist.

15th Finance Commission presents FY22-26 report to FM

NEW DELHI



THE Chairman and members of the 15th Finance Commission on Tuesday presented a copy of the panel's report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 financial years to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Commission had submitted its report to the President of India on November 4 and to the Prime Minister on November 16.

"Chairman @NKSingh_MP and Members of the 15th Finance Commission presented a copy of the Commission's report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 to Finance Minister @nsitharaman today," the Ministry of Finance tweeted.

The report will be tabled in Parliament along with 'Explanatory Memorandum' by way of Action Taken Report as prescribed under the Constitution. Last year, the Commission had submitted its report with recommendations for 2020-21 fiscal, which was accepted by the Union government and tabled in Parliament on January 30, 2020.

As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues. Apart from the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, and disaster management grants, the Commission was also asked to examine and recommend performance incentives for states in many areas like power sector, adoption of DBT, and solid waste management etc.

The panel was also asked to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and, if so, how such a mechanism could be operationalised. The Commission has sought to address all its ToRs in the latest report, organised in four volumes.

15th Finance Commission Chairman N K Singh presenting FY22-26 report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

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Few takers for Covid debt recast scheme

Improving business sentiment, expectation of a sharp recovery are persuading borrowers to skip OTDR

NEW DELHI



CRISIL said that the number of companies seeking RBI's one-time-debt restructuring may increase if sentiment around recovery dampens or Covid-19 afflictions keep increasing, leading to fresh curbs on economic activity

AS many as 99 per cent of companies (excluding MSMEs) rated by Crisil are unlikely to opt for the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) one-time-debt restructuring (OTDR), a preliminary analysis of 3,523 such non-MSME companies by the rating agency has indicated.

The RBI had, on August 6, announced the scheme as a relief measure for non-MSME corporate borrowers having an aggregate exposure of greater than Rs 25 crore and were under stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

But of the Crisil sample, only 1 per cent indicated that they would apply for OTDR. This is despite two-thirds of the rated entities being eligible based on the parameters proposed by the K.V. Kamath Committee set up by the RBI. Subodh Rai, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings, said: "Improving business sentiment on account of increased economic activity over the past couple of months, and expectation of a sharp recovery next fiscal are persuading borrowers to skip OTDR."

"Another deterrent is the im-

pact on the borrower's long-term credit history - accounts of those opting for OTDR would be classified as restructured advances by lenders, which could impact their ability to raise debt in future."

Additionally, for 44 per cent of Crisil-rated corporates, more than three-fourth of their debt comprises short-term working capital facilities. In these cases, availing of OTDR would have negligible benefits, as the resolution plans

under this scheme are focussed on deferring principal repayment of long-term debt.

Such borrowers, instead of opting for debt recast, may prefer to seek additional working capital financing as announced by the RBI under its Covid-19 regulatory package, the agency said.

Early into the lockdown, 968 companies, or 27 per cent of the sample set, had opted for the moratorium allowed by the RBI.

However, companies that belong to highly impacted sectors such as hotels, retail, real estate, and textiles would still prefer OTDR given their longer business-recovery timelines," said Sameer Charania, Director, Crisil Ratings.

The rating agency said that these are early days and greater clarity will emerge as the regulatory deadline of December 31 set by the RBI for invoking debt restructuring plans -- nears. The number of companies seeking OTDR may increase if sentiment around recovery dampens or Covid-19 afflictions keep increasing, leading to fresh curbs on economic activity, it added.

Pfizer slaps case on Aurobindo, Dr Reddy's in US court

HYDERABAD

Pfizer in its petition stated that the Indian drug makers had submitted abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) to the USFDA seeking approval to engage in commercial manufacturing



ping the growth of cancer cells. Ibrance clocked nearly USD five billion revenues globally including USD 3.25 billion in the USA in 2019, according to Pfizer's 2019 annual report.

In March 2019, several generic companies notified us that they had filed abbreviated new drug applications with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), seeking approval to

Pfizer sought among others a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining Aurobindo and DRRL, from commercial manufacture, use,

market generic versions of Ibrance. The generic companies assert the invalidity and non-infringement of two composition of matter patents and a method of use patent covering palbociclib, each of which expire in 2023, according to the annual report.

Pfizer in its petition stated that the Indian drug makers had submitted abbreviated new

Pfizer says the companies are planning separately to develop and market generic versions of Ibrance

drug application (ANDA) to the USFDA seeking approval to engage in commercial manufacture, sale and importation of the ANDA products, or any other drug product covered by 730 patent into the US, prior to expiration of that patent, including any extensions and additional period of exclusivity.

Under Paragraph IV Patent Certifications, a company can seek FDA approval to market a generic drug before the expiration of patents related to the branded medicine that the pharmaceutical company seeks to copy.

Covid drives surge in online shopping

NEW DELHI

THERE is a sharp rise in online shopping nationwide due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with more than 68 per cent reporting an increase since Covid-19 struck, a survey by cybersecurity firm McAfee said on Tuesday.

The results, however, showed that consumers are not adequately safeguarding themselves online, considering only a quarter of the shoppers use online security solutions. While over half of Indians feel cyber scams are more prevalent during the holiday season, yet, 42.3 per cent are planning to do more of their holiday shopping online, showed the findings of the "2020 Holiday Season: State of Today's Digital e-Shopper" India survey.

Stung by bypoll debacle, TRS to deploy an army of leaders for GHMC poll drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TAKEN aback by the Dabbaka bypoll outcome, the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi has decided to field all its leaders in the campaign for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections.

The leaders from the districts have been given the task of getting the votes from their district. Chief Minister and TRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao has summoned the party leaders to Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday in this regard and instructed the Ministers to coordinate MPs, MLAs and MLCs from their districts and ensure their presence at the meeting.

According to party sources, the Ministers would be given the task to select the leaders to campaign in several divi-

- Party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao to hold a meeting with party leaders today
- The Ministers, MPs, MLAs will campaign where the people of their respective districts reside in Hyderabad
- TRS to campaign extensively in the city except in MIM-dominated areas given the understanding between both the parties for the polls

sions in Greater Hyderabad, except for the MIM dominated areas given the understanding between both the parties for the polls. Sources said that the leaders from the districts would be pressed in the localities where their people reside. A senior party leader said that the Nizamabad district leaders would be



deployed at areas like Medchal, the leaders from Nalgonda would be deployed at the Dilsukhnagar so that they can influence the voters with their district roots. Sources said that the party has asked the leaders from Warangal to campaign in the division 4 of the GHMC which is Meerpeta. The leaders, in-

cluding Panchayat Raj Minister E Dayakar Rao, have been asked to campaign in the Meerpeta Housing Board. Dayakar Rao had recently organised a meeting in Hanamkonda and asked the party leaders to show the strength of TRS in the upcoming elections. Similarly, the leaders from Karimnagar

have been asked to campaign in division 135, that is Venkatapur.

The Social Welfare Minister, Koppula Eshwar, has asked the party leaders from the district to extensively campaign for the party for the next one week.

Party leaders said that while the party's working president would spearhead the campaign by taking up road shows and meetings, the leaders including Ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs would be taking up 'padayatra' in the colonies/bastis to get the votes for the ruling party. "The party missed the trick by giving the entire responsibility to one person in the recent Dabbaka bypoll. This time the party does not want to take any risk and hence, decided to have division-wise in-charges," said a TRS leader.

TS goes in for Option 1 to meet GST shortfall

Set to get Rs 2,380 cr to meet shortfall in GST

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government has decided to go for Option - 1 to meet the GST implementation shortfall in the revenues. The State government has communicated its acceptance for Option-1 out of the two options suggested by the Union Ministry of Finance to meet the shortfall in revenues arising out of GST implementation.

Under the Option-1, the Telangana will get Rs 2,380 crore through special borrowing and also permitted to raise additional Rs 5,017 crore through borrowings. Telangana joined 22 other States and three Union Territories (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry) who have also opted the Option-1.

The States who choose Option-1 will get the amount of shortfall

arising out of GST implementation through a special borrowing window put in place by the Union government. The window has been operationalised now and the Centre already borrowed an amount of Rs 18,000 crore on behalf of the States in three instalments and has passed it on to the States.

The Telangana government will also receive funds raised through this window. Under the terms of Option-1, besides getting the facility of a special window for borrowings to meet the shortfall arising out of GST implementation, States are also entitled to get unconditional permission to borrow the final instalment of 0.50 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) out of the 2 per cent additional borrowings under Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan.



TPCC constitutes GHMC election committees

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday constituted five Parliamentary Constituency-wise election committees for December 1 GHMC elections. These committees will start functioning immediately and finalise the list of candidates by Wednesday. The Hyderabad Parliament Constituency Committee will consist of former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, Feroz Khan, Zafar Javed, G Nirajan, Shaik Abdullah Sohal, and PCC coordinator Mohammad Shabbir Ali. Secunderabad Parliamentary Constituency Committee will have Hanumanta Rao, Shashidhar Reddy, Anjan Kumar Yadav, P Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Sravan Dosaju, Adam Santosh Kumar and PCC coordinator Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu.

VIT-AP University gets new Vice-Chancellor

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE VIT-AP University, Chancellor G Viswanathan has appointed SV Kota Reddy as the new Vice-Chancellor of the VIT-AP University in the presence of GV Selvam, Vice President, VIT University.

D Subhakar handed over the charge to the new incumbent at a simple function held on the campus. Addressing the gathering of the VIT-AP University faculty and staff members, he urged the faculty members to focus on innovative research and asked the staff to extend full support to achieve the quality services to students.

Kota Reddy has a Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Bombay. Before the new assignment, he was the Academic President of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai Campus backed with 30 years of research and



SV Kota Reddy taking charge as the new Vice-Chancellor of the VIT-AP University in the presence of GV Selvam, Vice President, VIT University

teaching experience in India and abroad. He has been responsible for identifying and establishing student exchange programmes through collaborations with various universities across the globe.

He asked the heads of the departments of the university to take steps for the smooth delivery of services. In particular, in the conduct of classes, combating difficulties created by pandemic for physical delivery.

vailing situation.

Prof Jagadish Chandra Muduganti Dean Academics and CLV Sivakumar, Registrar, informed the VC about initiatives taken by the university to serve the student community better, particularly strategies followed to deliver the online classes, combating difficulties created by pandemic for physical delivery.

Flood relief rush takes toll on RTA services

Applicants could not complete their transactions with regard to payments in Mee Seva as the residents were seen thronging these centres to apply for flood relief benefit of Rs 10,000

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Road Transport Authority services were affected in the last two days as the applicants could not complete their transactions with regard to payments in the Mee Seva, as the residents seen thronging to these centres to apply for flood relief benefit of Rs 10,000.

According to officials, the majority of the applicants depend on Mee Seva and e-Seva for completing their transactions. The motorists make applications for slot booking for learner's licence, permanent licence, to undergo tests, registration of vehicles and other services. While the application is made online, the department provides one day's time to the



applicant to pay the prescribed fee through Mee Seva and e-Seva. However, the Mee Seva centres are now filled with people coming for making applications to get the flood relief of

Rs 10,000 from the government. The applicants who came to Mee Seva to pay the fee were told to come after two-three days in wake of the rush at the centres. With this, many appli-

cants could not get their applications processed. The officials asked the applicants to cancel their slot and reapply any other day.

The RTA services have been affected several times during the last few days. Recently, the services were affected because of technical glitches for a couple of days as the system failed to send one-time password (OTP) for taking up the transactions. Sources said that the system could not generate the OTPs for completion of the transactions in the RTA offices. There were problems in the servers of the RTA offices. The OTPs were not generated the entire day on Wednesday and on Thursday the services were hampered at regular intervals during the last week.

Make amendments to GO 550, govt urged

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

DEMAND has grown for an amendment to GO 550 for implementation of reservations for SC/ST/BCs in all higher educational institutions now that MBBS and BDS admissions are being taken up by Kalohi Health University in Telangana. Recently, Andhra Pradesh made amendments to the earlier GO and issued GO numbered 159. Telangana government doctors are appealing the government here to follow suit and ensure justice to meritorious students from SC/ST/BC sections.

TS govt to hold summit on assistive technology

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government will be organising the first ever state-level Assistive Technology Summit 2020 on December 3, the International Day for Disabled Persons. The Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) will organise the summit with the theme "Assistive Technology (AT) for all-making affordable assistive technology accessible to everyone". The aim is to lay the foundation for a robust AT-ecosystem in the state. It is estimated that over a billion people are impacted worldwide with a disability, of which only 1 out of 10 can access assistive technology due to lack of awareness and high cost.

The summit will be bringing together key players across the nation in the AT space, such as researchers, innovators, investors, social enterprises, NGOs, expert users, and government organisations to discuss building affordable solutions, easing the access to solutions for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and collaborations to sustain the ecosystem further.

The stakeholders who will be part of the summit are: T-Works,

It will be organised on December 3, the International Day for Disabled Persons



LVPEI Center for Innovation, Artilab Foundation, AegisTech Foundation, Social Alpha, BVRIT Hyderabad College of Engineering, Youth4Jobs, Unmukt-The Senior Hub. The summit will comprise an AT exhibition, keynote sessions, success stories, and panel discussions to build more solutions in the space of AT.

One of the major features of the summit will be the launch of the AT exhibition that will see innovators from school to college-

level and entrepreneurs across India with a major focus on Telangana, who have devised affordable solutions for PWDs. The exhibition will mark the interaction between government and innovators leading to building an ecosystem.

Chief Innovation Officer of TSIC, Ravi Narayan said that the State has been a pioneer in building ecosystems and December 3 will multiply it with AT Summit. "This Assistive Technology Summit by TSIC is the largest Summit in AT Space where the brightest of the minds are coming together from all over India to build a unique Assistive Technology focused ecosystem in Telangana. We believe all the stakeholders in the space such as NGOs, academia, research organizations, Investors, Innovators, and the Government can add value to each other's work through cross-sectoral collaborations through mechanisms such as Exhibition, Panels, and Success stories."

Mahindra to roll out new K2 tractor series from Zaheerabad facility

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IT Minister KT Rama Rao thanks Mahindra for their new investment in the State

THE Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.'s Farm Equipment Sector (FES) on Tuesday announced that it will manufacture a new tractor series called the 'K2', exclusively at the company's tractor manufacturing facility at Zaheerabad in Telangana.

Developed through close collaboration between the engineering teams from Mitsubishi Mahindra Agricultural Machinery of Japan and Mahindra Research Valley, India, the K2 series aims to create a light-weight tractor programme for both domestic

and international markets. The new series will enable Mahindra to introduce products across four new tractor platforms, in the Sub Compact, Compact, Small Utility and Large Utility tractor categories, covering 37 models across various HP points. The new series will cater to domestic as well as international markets including USA, Japan and South East Asia.

Information Technology Minister KT Rama Rao

said that the government was very grateful to Mahindra for their new investment in Telangana.

"One of the most remarkable features of Telangana's investment landscape over the last six years is a series of repeat investments by our existing investors. The new investment by Mahindra is one such example. This goes on to show that existing investors find the policy is working on the ground, and the going to be



Cricketers airlifted after new Covid cases reported in South Australia

MELBOURNE

AS an emergent measure, several members of the Australian Test squad were on Tuesday airlifted from South Australia, following a Covid-19 outbreak there, to New South Wales to save a domestic season, which includes a full series against India, from complete disruption due to the pandemic.

The players, airlifted by Cricket Australia (CA) in a charter flight, include Test players Tim Paine, the captain, Marnus Labuschagne, Matthew Wade and Travis Head, besides those part of Australia 'A' team and those who will compete in the T20 Big Bash League (BBL) starting next month.

India-Australia Series

South Australia had on Sunday announced a new Covid-19 cluster, as the number of cases quickly grew to 17 on Monday. The numbers, however, fell to five on Tuesday.

Following this, the governments of Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory announced border closures, with Queensland to impose a two-week hotel quarantine on all visitors from Adelaide from 11.59pm on Monday. Thereafter, CA and BBL clubs moved rapidly to ensure that all players left the affected state.

These moves, according to an ESPNcricinfo report, included a charter flight specifically to transport all players and staff from the Adelaide Strikers to a training camp in Coffs Harbour.

The players, who are part of the Australia ODI

and T20Is squads, travelled to Sydney to commence their preparation for both the series against India, beginning November 27.

As a result of the mass airlift, the likes of Paine, Labuschagne, Wade, Head, and Green bid a quick farewell to their family and friends. India and Australia will play three ODIs and three T20Is beginning November 27. The two teams will then compete in a four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, beginning with the day-night Test at the Adelaide Oval from December 17.

Players and staff from Western Australia, Tasmania, and Queensland who are part of the Australian men's One-day International and Twenty20 International squads are traveling to Sydney today [Tuesday] to commence their preparation for both series. This decision was made after players returning from the Sheffield Shield hub in South Australia after the last round were subject to changes in border conditions by the aforementioned state governments," CA said in a statement.

Nick Hockley, CA's interim CEO, said the steps were taken to ensure the summer schedule would not be compromised by the new border restrictions by the states. "CA has taken a proactive approach and mobilised a number of people across the country over the past 24 hours to shore up our men's domestic and international schedules. CA will continue to monitor the situation in South Australia and the resulting border restrictions around the country," he said.

"As ever, we will remain agile in addressing the challenges presented by the pandemic and remain more confident than ever of hosting a safe and successful summer across all formats."

CA said it remains "committed to hosting" the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India in Adelaide. It further said that "none of the players in Adelaide for the Marsh Sheffield Shield visited the 'hot spots' identified by SA Health". "CA has nonetheless instructed all players to undergo Covid-19 tests, with all results received thus far returning negative," it said. (ANS)



Olympian hurdler Jagmohan dies

PATIALA: Olympian hurdler and multi-faceted sports personality Jagmohan Singh, who introduced scientific fitness training methods in athletics and other sports during his long stint at the NIS-Patiala, died of heart attack here on Tuesday. He was 88. Jagmohan, who had also served as joint director general of Sports Authority of India, represented the country in 110m hurdles in the 1960 Rome Olympics. He was the national champion in this event from 1958 to 1960. He also had held national records in 110m hurdles and decathlon. Not only was he a top athlete of his time, Jagmohan had served Indian sport as teacher, coach, administrator and physical trainer. "Jagmohan was a pioneer in Indian sports. He introduced scientific training methods, especially in athletics, but also in hockey and cycling," Lalit Bhanot, who had served as secretary of the Athletics Federation of India for a long time, said. (PTI)



Serena reveals what 'went wrong' on way to meeting daughter Olympia

NEW DELHI TWENTY three-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams has opened up about the time before her daughter's birth and how she feared she might not return to the tennis court post her delivery.

In April 2017 after winning the Australia Open title, Williams had revealed she was 20 weeks pregnant and would miss the remainder of the season, and on September 1 she gave birth to Olympia. She had a cesarean-section delivery due to a pulmonary embolism during labour. She suffered another pulmonary embolism after giving birth, leaving her bedridden for six weeks and delaying her return to training.

"I can't believe how much went wrong on my way to meeting her. I almost died. But now she is the rea-

son why it means even more than it did before. Still, there is no escaping the fear," Williams said in the documentary 'Being Serena' streaming on Discovery Plus.

"The fear that I might not come back as strong as I was, the fear that I can't be both, the best mother and the best tennis player in the world," said the 39-year-old player. In the documentary, the American tennis great further spoke about her journey and giving a perfect childhood to Olympia.

"We put together the baby's room before she was born. It was just one way I could try to make everything perfect. I wanted her to see the Australian Open trophy. She should know that having her in my body didn't stop me from succeeding, from winning," said Williams.

"I think it is important to have re-

minders of where you come from because where you come from is who you are and I didn't come from this. I come from Compton; I come from a family that had to work for everything it got and took nothing for granted. I had to worry about all kinds of things growing up, gangs, robberies, murder, gunshots right outside our door," she said. There was a lot to be afraid of. There was a lot to run away from. Ultimately that fear, it drove us forward. We have never stopped trying to win and we have never stopped trying to grow."

'Being Serena', a five-episode documentary series produced by HBO Sports and IMG's Original Content, showcases game-changing moments in her professional and personal life, tracking her pregnancy, motherhood, comeback, and more. (ANS)

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'Being Serena', a five-episode documentary series produced by HBO Sports and IMG's Original Content, showcases game-changing moments in her professional and personal life, tracking her pregnancy, motherhood, comeback, and more. (ANS)

To soak in the experience and be a part of the team's biggest fixtures, fans can register on the dedicated 'Fan Zone' on the ISL website where they can stand a chance to be featured LIVE on the stadium 'Fan Walls'.

There will be two LED screens that will feature fans from the home team and the away team.

Medvedev, Djokovic off to winning start

ATP Finals



LONDON

DANIIL Medvedev pulled off an underarm serve as he outlasted Alexander Zverev and joined Novak Djokovic as a winner at the ATP Finals on day two.

Medvedev prevailed 6-3, 6-4, while Djokovic cruised past Finals debutant Diego

Schwartzman 6-3, 6-2 in an empty O2 Arena on Monday. Djokovic and Medvedev meet on Wednesday to secure the group lead.

Medvedev led 4-3, 30-30 in the second set when he surprised Zverev with a

quick underarm serve. It brought the German to the net and he lost the point when his backhand block volley flew long. "My wide serve was not working as well as I would like and he was returning good," Medvedev said.

"I see that he was five meters behind the baseline and I have the ball close to my racket, so I thought, 'Go for it.'

"It actually worked. It's also smart."

Two games later, he served a love game to earn his first win at the ATP Finals in his fourth match going back

to last year. Medvedev went 0-3 in his first Finals, including a loss to Zverev which he avenged after an attritional opening

set.

Zverev, the 2018 champion, earned a break in the first game but gave it straight back with three double faults. Another double fault by Zverev in the sixth game gave Medvedev a 4-2 lead, and the Russian finished the set with his first ace.

A weak forehand into the net cost Zverev the decisive break at 3-3 in the second. Medvedev held with the underarm serve, and he beat Zverev again eight days after winning their Paris Masters final. "This was one of the most (intense matches) I had in my career," Medvedev said.

The top-ranked Djokovic smothered Schwartzman after conceding an early break, despite no fans inside the 20,000-capacity O2 Arena, he gestured to each section as if to say thanks.

"Why I celebrated? Because that's my celebration and that's also my gratitude to the court and to this opportunity to be able to compete," the Serb said. "Even though there was no crowd in the stands, I know that there was a lot of people watching it on TV, so that was me sharing that emotion with them."

Djokovic hasn't lost an opening ATP Finals match since 2007

"This has been one of the most exciting arenas to play for a tennis player. The atmosphere was always electric and the crowd was always loud and really into matches."

He has won the elite, season-ending event five times — one short of Roger Federer's record. Schwartzman qualified for his first ATP Finals by reaching the French Open semifinals and two finals, including at the Italian Open, where he lost to Djokovic.

"That start of the match he was not playing his best," Schwartzman said. "I took the chance at the beginning, but then that break back from him ... I did too many mistakes."

Schwartzman is the first South American to play singles at the ATP Finals since 2013 and another Argentine, Juan Martin del Potro. The ATP Finals move to Turin, Italy, next year, after 12 years in London. The players' hotel is a short walk away, but health protocols require they are driven to and from the venue.

The tournament is using electronic line calling for the first time. Players can't challenge whether a ball was in or out, but they can request a video review for other disputed situations, such as double bounces. On Sunday, Dominic Thiem outlasted Stefanos Tsitsipas in a rematch of the 2019 final, beating the defending champion 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3, and Rafael Nadal topped newcomer Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-4. Djokovic on Sunday was presented with a trophy for finishing the year with the No. 1 ranking for a record-equaling sixth time. (AP)

Belgium dash England's hopes, Italy win

NEW DELHI

BELGIUM defeated England 2-0 in Brussels to dash the latter's hopes of qualifying for the Nations League finals.

Youri Tielemans opened the scoring after 10 minutes when his 20-yard shot took a deflection off Tyrone Mings, and Dries Mertens scored the second in the 24th minute with a free-kick.

The loss to Belgium means that England will not reach the finals since finishing third in 2019, when the inaugural edition of the event was held in Portugal. England are third in League A Group 2 with seven points behind Denmark, 10 points, and Belgium, 12 points.

In Mapei, Italy, Italy defeated Poland 2-0 to move on top of their League A Group 1 after Jorginho and Domenico Berardi scored for them.

Italy have nine points and are ahead of Netherlands by just one point. (ANS)

ISL introduces many technological innovations for 2020-21 season

MUMBAI

AHEAD of the upcoming edition of the Indian Super League (ISL) which will be played behind closed doors amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Star Sports and FSDL have brought forward a series of exciting opportunities for fans to engage with their favourite clubs and players.

In the latest promo released, the broadcaster showcases the introduction of a 'Fan Wall' which gives fans an opportunity to catch the action live from the comfort of their homes and celebrate important moments with their favourite team and heroes.

To soak in the experience and be a part of the team's biggest fixtures, fans can register on the dedicated 'Fan Zone' on the ISL website where they can stand a chance to be featured LIVE on the stadium 'Fan Walls'.

"Fans are an integral part of the ISL which is the first major sporting league to be played in the country during these unprecedented times. With the addition of new teams and all the international partnerships, this season is expected to be more thrilling," said a Star Sports spokesperson. (ANS)



Along with this enhanced audio for the game, an additional mix of cameras and further access to the players through pre- & post-match shows will ensure that fans remain close to all the action even beyond the field.

A few select fans will also get the opportunity to interact with experts and special guests during the pre and post-match shows.

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