



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS



### Tattooed teacher told to quit school

**Paris:** A schoolteacher whose body, face and tongue are covered in tattoos and who has had the whites of his eyes surgically turned black said he was prevented from teaching at a French kindergarten after a parent complained he scared their child. Sylvain Helaine, 35, was asked to switch age groups when a parent complained he gave their three-year-old nightmares. He said last year he was teaching at the Docteur Morere Elementary School in Palaiseau, a suburb of Paris, when the parent said their son, who was not taught by Helaine, was scared after seeing him. A couple of months later the school authorities informed him he would no longer teach kindergarten children.



## PM: Opposition wants middlemen to thrive

**Dehradun (PTI):** In a scathing attack on those opposing the new farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said they wanted only the middlemen to thrive and referred to the burning of a tractor in Delhi by Congress workers as an insult to farmers. "They are opposing the freedom of farmers and want their problems to continue forever. By torching farming equipment, which the agriculturists worship, these people are now insulting farmers," he said without naming the Congress. The Congress' youth wing activists on Monday morning set a tractor ablaze near India Gate, a few hundred metres from the Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament, to protest the contentious farm laws.

Modi said the opposition has only one way of doing politics in the country and that is by opposing things. Terming it "opposition for the sake of opposition", the prime minister said that by resisting big reformative steps by the Centre such as the farm laws, these forces were making themselves irrelevant in the society and in the country.

He accused them of challenging everything from GST, One Rank One



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he addresses during the inauguration of six mega projects in Uttarakhand under the 'Namami Gange Mission' through a video conference, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Pension, Rafale deal, Statue of Unity, 10 per cent reservation for the poor and celebration of November 26 as Samvidhan Diwas. He said that this politics was the root of the frustration of a party which had ruled for four generations.

"Frustration of a party which has ended up riding the shoulders of others despite wielding power for four generations is behind this politics of the opposition for opposition's sake," Modi said. He said none of the leaders of the political party had till date visited the Statue of Unity, built to honour the memory of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel whose contribution to unifying the country is well known. "Why? Because they had to oppose," he said. He said people

had seen for themselves the role Jan Dhan accounts played in direct benefit transfer schemes during the coronavirus pandemic and they could also remember how it was opposed while being introduced by the Centre. He said after opposing the Ram Mandir in the Supreme Court for decades, they even began opposing its foundation stone laying in Ayodhya. Without naming the Congress, he accused it of being neither with the farmers nor with the youth nor the soldiers and recalled that the party had demanded proof of surgical strikes instead of praising the bravehearts who carried out the exercise. He also recalled how it opposed the purchase of Rafale fighter jets.

## Hyd-Bengaluru industrial corridor to connect AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh state has been sanctioned with a new industrial corridor to facilitate industrial development as part of the Hyderabad-Bengaluru industrial corridor, according to AP Industries Minister Mekapati Gautham Reddy.

This would come up under the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust Programme.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, the Minister said the new corridor would have Orvakal in Kurnool district as a node. Similarly, Koppurthi in Kadapa district, Tammanapattanam of Potti Srirampur



■ Orvakal in Kurnool district to be a node

■ Kapil Group proposes IT corridor in Tirupati

district (part of Visakhapatnam-Chennai corridor) and Routhurumala of Chittoor in Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor would also be developed.

The Minister also disclosed that the representatives of Kapil Consultancy Service Pvt Limited, led by its vice-president, met him on Tues-

day and proposed the establishment of an IT Park in Tirupati under 'walk to work' concept. The company representatives said that they would make an investment of Rs 500 crore. It would provide up to 8,000 jobs when it is completed in two phases in seven years. The Minister said the proposal was being

considered favourably. The company sought 25 acres of land for the same, he said.

The Minister said the new corridor paves way for the industrial progress in the State manifold. Bulk water supply would be ensured to the companies coming up as part of infrastructure development.

He inquired about the road works of Samalkot-Rajana-garam stretch undertaken under the AP Roads Development Corporation along with the works on the common effluent treatment plant at Naidupet cluster.

The meeting was attended by APIIC chairperson Roja and other officials.

## No war, no peace status along Ladakh border: IAF chief

**New Delhi (PTI):** The present security scenario along India's northern frontier is at an "uneasy no war no peace" status, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said on Tuesday, referring to the festering border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

Addressing a conference, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria



also said the Indian Air Force has responded to the situation with a rapidity and is fully resolved to counter any "misadventure" in the region. "The present security scenario along our northern

frontiers is at an uneasy no war no peace status. Our defence forces are prepared for any eventuality as you are aware," the Chief of Air Staff said. The IAF is looking at inducting around 450 aircraft and helicopters in the next two decades, besides upgrading at least 200-300 planes during this period, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said.

## Dy CM discharged from hospital

**New Delhi (PTI):** Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was suffering from Covid-19 and dengue, was discharged from hospital on Tuesday, officials said. "He tested negative (for Covid-19) today and his condition is better. He has been discharged from the hospital," said an official from the Deputy Chief Minister's Office.

## Babri mosque demolition case verdict today

**Lucknow (PTI):** A special court here will deliver the much-awaited judgment on Wednesday in the 1992 Babri masjid demolition case in which BJP veterans L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi are among the accused. CBI judge SK Yadav had on September 16 directed all the 32 surviving accused to remain present in the court on the day of the judgment. The accused include former deputy prime minister Advani, former Union ministers Joshi and Uma Bharti, former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, besides Vinay Katiyar and Sadhvi Ritambhara.

With both Bharti and Singh convalescing in separate hospitals after coronavirus infection, it was not immediately known if they would be present in the court at the time of pronouncement of order. Singh, during whose tenure as chief

minister of Uttar Pradesh the disputed structure was demolished, was put on trial in September last year after his tenure as governor (of Rajasthan) came to an end.

Champat Rai, the general secretary of the trust in charge of constructing the Ram temple, is also among those accused. With the Supreme Court setting August 31 as the deadline and later extending it by a month for the CBI court to give its

verdict, the trial court started day-to-day hearing to complete the task in time. The central agency produced 351 witnesses and 600 documents as evidence before the court. Charges were framed against 48 people, but 17 have died during the course of trial. The trial under the serious criminal conspiracy charges commenced against them after having been dropped by the trial court in 2001.

## Bypolls for 56 Assembly, 1 LS seat in Nov

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday announced by-elections to 56 assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar in the first week of November.

By-elections to 56 assembly seats, except Manipur, across 11 states, will be held on November 3 and the Lok Sabha election will be held on November 7. The counting will be held on November 10 and the entire election process will be completed before November 12, the Commission said.

The maximum number of



seats going to polls is from Madhya Pradesh as these fell vacant due to Jyotiraditya Scindia switching camps from the Congress to the

Bharatiya Janata Party along with his supporters.

A total of 28 Assembly seats are vacant in Madhya Pradesh, eight in Gujarat,

seven in Uttar Pradesh, two each in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha; and one each in Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Telangana. Besides, one Parliamentary constituency in Bihar and two assembly seats from Manipur go to polls on November 7. The counting of votes will be held on November 10. "After taking into consideration various factors like weather conditions, movement of forces, pandemic etc, the commission has decided to hold by-elections," a note from the Election Commission said.



## UAE to launch spacecraft to moon in 2024

**Dubai (AP):** The United Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024, a top Emirati official said on Tuesday, the latest gamble in the stars by the oil-rich nation that could see it become only the fourth nation on Earth to accomplish that goal.

The announcement by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum shows the rapid expansion of the space program that bears his name.

## Serum Institute of India to manufacture 200 mn doses of Covid-19 vaccine

**New Delhi (IANS):** A further collaboration among the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, Gavi and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will accelerate the manufacture and delivery of up to 100 million doses of safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines for India and low- and middle-income countries.

This brings the total number of vaccine doses to be covered by the partnership between SII, Gavi, and the

Gates Foundation to an aggregate of up to 200 million doses, following the initial agreement for up to 100 million doses announced in August. The arrangement again provides an option to secure additional doses if the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator sees a need for it. The collaboration will provide upfront capital to SII to help it increase manufacturing capacity now so that, once a vaccine, or vaccines, gains regulatory approval

and WHO Prequalification, doses can be distributed at scale to LMICs as part of the Gavi COVAX AMC mechanism as early as the first half of 2021. "The collaboration further bolsters our fight against Covid-19. Through the avid support of Gavi and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we will now manufacture and deliver up to an additional 100 million doses of immunogenic and safe-proven future Covid-19 vaccines to India and low- and middle-income coun-

tries in 2021," said Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India. He added, "At this stage, it is important for governments, global health and financial institutions in the public and private sector to come together in ensuring that no one is left behind in the road to recovery. This association is in line with our efforts to see that the future vaccines reach the remotest part of the world providing full immunization coverage in a bid to contain the spread of the pandemic."

**KAPIL KAVURI**  
Nanakramguda, Hyderabad **Hub**



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# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**DIA MIRZA**  
**@DEESPEAK**

The Student Solar Ambassador workshop is a global movement to bring youth together to understand the importance of #RenewableEnergy. Join me on 2nd Oct on this journey to revive our environment and build a #SustainableLifestyle Register <http://bit.ly/diaXesf> @Energy\_Swaraj



**Shikha Nahata, Espousal, partner and co-founder, Zeroin shares few tips to keep in mind while planning your wedding**



Shikha Nahata

## Planning wedding during pandemic?

ASKARI JAFFER

Planning your wedding day is no easy feat. If it happens to be in the current situation, then it probably is even harder. Over the last six months, a lot has changed in the way we live and celebrate the big milestones in our lives. The big fat Indian wedding has now been replaced by small intimate gatherings with just a handful of people. Face to face invitations are now replaced with e-invites.

**Choose outdoor over indoor:** An open air venue with enough space for socially distanced seating must be your first choice. Most guests might be wary of indoor venues and would surely prefer something without the risk of air conditioning. A lot of couples are choosing to get married in their backyards or in the comfort of their living rooms

with just the right amount of people. It's not the venue that matters, it's the people around you that truly matter.

**Visit online wedding exhibitions:**

During a time like this, it's difficult to visit multiple vendors who can help you plan your wedding. Look for online wedding exhibitions that will give you a chance to interact with multiple vendors on one platform. For instance, Espousal, a virtual wedding fair is being held on 11th and 12th of September to help soon-to-wed couples interact with vendors directly. Through visual presentations, couples can handpick vendors of their choice and choose to arrange offline meetings.

**Fashion trends:** With smaller guests lists, brides and grooms are choosing simple traditional outfits with matching masks. Since most weddings are happening at home,

brides prefer to wear something simple yet classic.

**Handpick your guest list:** Smaller the better. Even if you had dreamed of a long guest list, it's good to avoid inviting more than 20-25 people for your special day. In the best interest of your family's and your health, trim down your guest list to just a handful of your loved ones. Arrange for virtual wedding celebrations for everyone to be a part of your big day.

**Follow restrictions and rules:** Speak to your local authorities and be aware about the rules and regulations of conducting a wedding ceremony. Understand the sanitization protocols and ensure that your wedding planners are taking all the necessary precautions. Give your guests an option to choose virtual presence if they are not comfortable being a part of your gathering.

## Handling long-distance relationship during pandemic

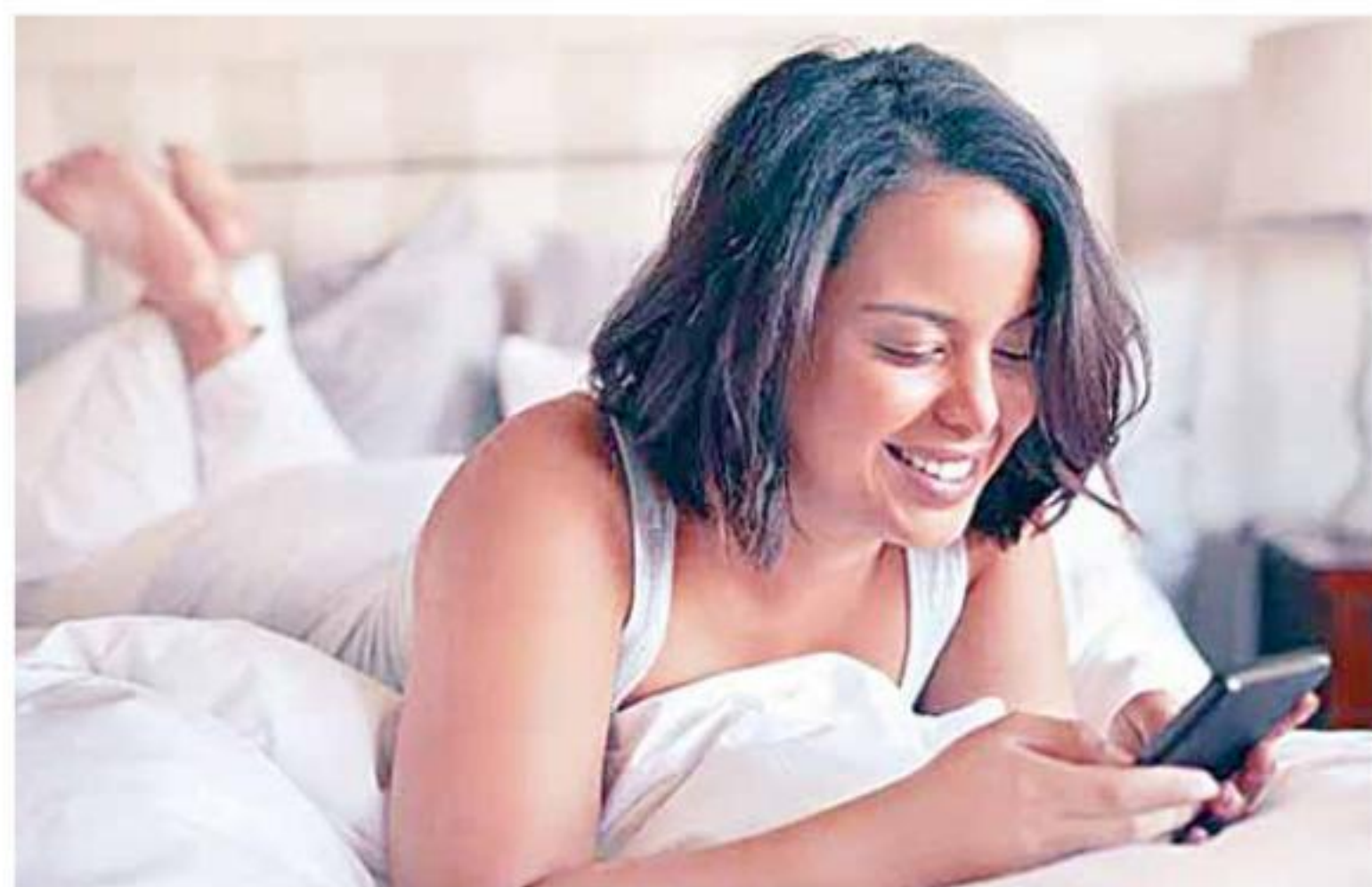
While the prospect of seeing your loved one may feel like a long way off just now, take solace that everything in this world is in constant motion. This situation will eventually change. Technology is on our side, and there are ways we can use it to make us feel connected.

With so many people traveling for work and pleasure, it wasn't unusual, even before lockdown, for people to find themselves in a long-distance romantic relationship. During the pandemic however, couples who are perhaps living in the same city or even in the same household have now found themselves in a situation where they cannot meet and are effectively in a long distance relationship.

But how to maintain and even deepen connection within a relationship with your partner and How can the sense of disconnection and absence be lessened?

**Set a time to talk**

Depending on your schedules, figure out a time that suits you both to talk. The loss of routine during this time has consequences for our well being, so setting a consistent time to chat will help give form to your time and allow you both to have



something to look forward to.

**Make every call count**

Whether you video call or just speak on the phone, give it your full attention. Try not to multitask. Put distractions away and put your focus on your loved one.

**Find fun ways to have remote dates**

Sharing experiences brings connection. Choose an activity you both enjoy, such as watching

a film together, drinking the same wine, going through old photos. Even though you can't be physically near your partner, you can be creative and not stick to a script of quick daily catch-up.

**Start a project together**

Another way to connect is to start a project. It will help focus your energy and give you something new to talk about. Start your own virtual bookclub, have debriefs on your favourite pod-

casts, or set a fitness goal to complete together.

**Get creative**

Find ways of creating or recreating romance in the relationship. A delivery of flowers, a care package with items you know the person will find fun or useful, a magazine or newspaper subscription. All of these things will let the other person know that you are thinking of them and will help to foster a sense of connection.

## Change your skin and hair products with season

PUJA GUPTA

With the season of winters, your skin and hair absolutely starts to feel the difference. The change of season is always a complicated time for both your skin and hair. Although there's nothing one can do about seasonal changes, it doesn't mean your skin and hair has to suffer the consequences. Just as you change your clothing with every changing season, you should also look at changing your skin and hair care products as well. The same seasonal fluctuations should be adapted for your skin and hair care routine as well.

**Skincare**

Due to the cold temperature and lower humidity, there is a lack of moisture in the air which can cause cracking, chapping and irritation to your skin. With these seasonal changes winter season calls for an upgrade in your skin care routine, which includes using



lightweight formulas that will hydrate your skin at all times.

Cleansing your skin with soap free gentle cleansers which can



leave skin feeling fresh, soft, and smooth is perfect during the colder months. Using a serum between cleansing and moisturising to your

### MAKE SOME MINOR TWEAKS IN YOUR SKIN AND HAIR CARE REGIME TO HELP THEM ADAPT TO SEASONAL CHANGES

routine can be a game changer as it offers moisture which makes your skin supple.

If your skin gets dry in the colder seasons, lock in that hydration with a rich moisturiser. This step will help distribute and lock water in all facial zones for long-lasting hydration and comfort.

**Haircare**

During winters the dryness in the air can lead to dry and damaged hair. The simplest thing to do is use a super-moisturising shampoo and conditioner along with a weekly deep-conditioning hair mask. When using hair products, it is important to take into account where you live and what time of the year it is. Apart from that, lack of moisture can particularly weaken hair because it makes

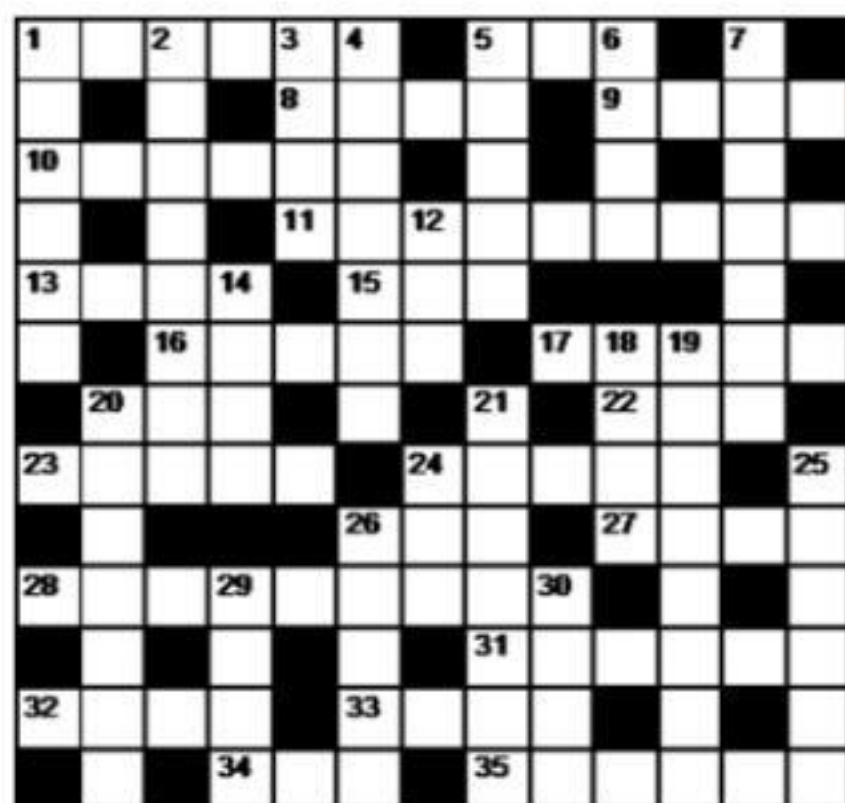
the strands brittle. Thus, wintertime products must include strand-strengthening ingredients like silk proteins, and a cocktail of collagen, hyaluronic acid and lilac.

Monsoon causes hair damage more than the rest of the seasons combined. The humidity amplifies the odds of getting dandruff and hair fall which means that our hair and scalp is fragile during our beloved monsoon season.

To give our hair the best care, one of the tried and tested ingredients that can be used on hair during monsoons is nothing but coconut oil. Preconditioning your hair with coconut oil 15 minutes before you shower will make your hair less greasy and reduce the water your hair would ideally soak up during washing.



Sanaya Irani effortlessly sporting Pasha India's Signature Palazzo Jumpsuit, looking so chic & stunning!



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 29

### CROSSWORD

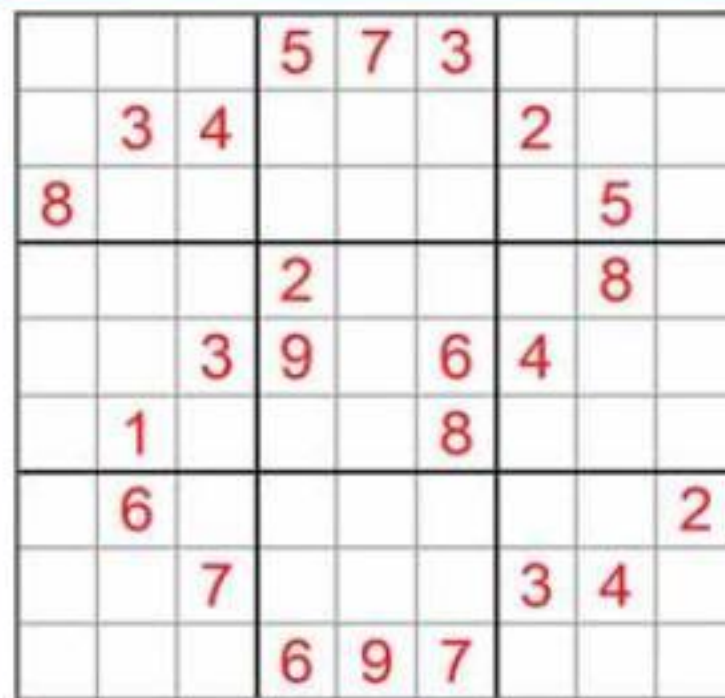
**Across**

- 1 Bud of comedy (6)
- 5 A failure or a damp squib ? (3)
- 8 Gambling town (4)
- 9 Sign of boredom (4)
- 10 Damage (6)
- 11 Manet or Monet creation? (5,4)
- 13 Miscellaneous in short (4)
- 15 Charged particle (3)
- 16 Low tree (5)
- 17 Sadder but \_\_ (5)
- 20 Large NZ parrot (3)
- 22 Public service vehicle (3)
- 23 The distance from one side to the other (5)
- 24 Nose \_\_ : wireman's pincer ? (5)
- 26 Make a \_\_ line for : go straight to eagerly ? (3)
- 27 Dec. holiday (1-3)
- 28 Photographer's accessory (5,4)
- 31 Dwarfed tree (6)
- 32 Old Indian coin (4)

**Down**

- 33 Verve (4)
- 34 Agreed (3)
- 35 Infant's bed (6)
- 1 Aphorisms, gospels or truisms (6)
- 2 Took a detour (8)
- 3 Group of three (4)
- 4 Rare-earth metallic element (7)
- 5 Quantity of 12 (5)
- 6 Coloured (4)
- 7 Midgets (7)
- 12 Piece of work (3)
- 14 Converse (4)
- 18 Wild goat (4)
- 19 Inferred with little evidence (8)
- 20 Slaying, slaughtering or liquidating (7)
- 21 Obsolete beaker (7)
- 24 Seed of a legume (3)
- 25 Be ambitious (6)
- 26 Small drops or spots (5)
- 29 Remain (4)
- 30 Destitute (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 29

### NEWS ROUNDUP

#### Kareena posts adorable picture of Inaaya, Taimur

Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, daughter of actress Soha Ali Khan and Kunal Kemmu, turned three on Tuesday. Inaaya's aunt, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan shared a sweet birthday message for her.

Kareena shared a picture of Inaaya and her son Taimur reading books. She captioned the image, "Happy birthday our beautiful Innaya."

Soha posted a family picture. In the image, Inaaya, Kunal and Soha are seen posing for the camera.

"Three years old today @khemster2," Soha wrote.

Kareena is married to Soha's brother, actor Saif Ali Khan. Kareena and Saif welcomed Taimur in 2016, while Inaaya was born to Soha and Kunal a year later.





# SC directs States to provide ration to sex workers without insisting on ID

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the state governments to provide dry ration to all sex workers, who have been identified by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and district legal authorities, without asking for ration card or any other identification proof.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Ajay Rastogi took into account the hardships faced by the sex workers, who have been rendered almost destitute due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The bench said that none of state governments have taken adversarial stand to its direction, and asked the authorities concerned to inform it within four weeks about the implementation of its order and also the number of sex workers who have benefited from its direction.

The remarks from the bench came during the hearing of an application moved by the NGO Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee seeking relief for over nine lakh female and transgender sex workers across the country.



The NGO had moved the apex court citing the hardships faced by the sex workers amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The top court also asked the Centre to inform it within four weeks if there is a possibility to provide financial aid to the sex workers.

The bench, citing the points raised in the application, said the court is concerned that sex workers can't access dry ration, cash transfers and other facilities due to lack of identity proof.

Additional Solicitor General R.S. Suri con-

tended before the bench that the Centre has no objection if amenities are provided by the states without insisting on identity proof. The counsels for Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal informed the bench that they have already taken steps in this direction.

The amicus curiae in the matter, senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, suggested that the court should monitor the implementation of its order.

Another amicus curiae in the matter said that sex workers should be permitted to open bank accounts without identity proof, which will help them in receiving benefits rolled out either by the Centre or the states.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for the applicants, contended that there are gaps in the process of identification of sex workers. To which, the bench replied, "We are concerned at present with providing dry ration to sex workers for their survival."

The court will hear the matter again in the last week of October.

## LEAFY SHOW



Leaf artist Subham Saha along with his friends shows his creation, depicting Goddess Durga, ahead of Durga Puja festival, on the outskirts of Agartala on Tuesday

## Maha-Guj border on high alert for Congo fever

**Mumbai:** The Palghar administration on Tuesday asked authorities to remain alert against a possible spread of the Congo fever in the Maharashtra district. The Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), commonly known as the Congo fever, spreads in humans through ticks. The district administration said in the wake of the outbreak of Covid-19, this is a matter of concern for cattle-breeders, meat-sellers and animal husbandry officials, and it is necessary to take timely precautions as there is no specific and useful treatment for the CCHF.

Palghar animal husbandry department's deputy commissioner Dr Prashant D Kamble in a circular said the CCHF has been found in some districts of Gujarat, and is likely to spread to border districts of Maharashtra. Palghar is close to Gujarat's Valsad district. The department has instructed authorities to take all necessary precautions and implement preventive measures.

"This viral disease is transmitted from one animal to another by a specific type of tick...the disease is transmitted to humans through contact with the blood of infected animals and by eating the meat of infected animals," the circular said.

"If the disease is not diagnosed and treated in time, 30 per cent of patients die," it said. The CCHF is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family. The virus causes severe viral haemorrhagic fever outbreaks, with a case fatality rate of 10 to 40 per cent, as per the World Health Organisation (WHO). There is no vaccine available for either people or animals against the disease, it said. Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons. Hospital-acquired infections can also occur due to improper sterilisation of medical equipment, reuse of needles and contamination of medical supplies, according to the WHO.

# Sushant not poisoned, says forensic report

HC asks Centre about steps taken on Rakul's complaint

**Mumbai:** The Kalina Forensic Science Laboratory in Mumbai on Tuesday said that its report in July on the death of Sushant Singh Rajput had ruled out any kind of poison or organic poisoning.

"Our report had ruled out any kind of poison or organic poisoning," Kalina FSL said. The lab had submitted the report on Sushant Singh Rajput's death to the Mumbai Police in June.

This comes as a panel of doctors from All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), re-evaluating Sushant Singh Rajput's post-mortem and viscera reports submitted their findings to the Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday.

Dr Sudhir Gupta, chairman of AIIMS' Forensic Medical Board, had said that there is a need to look into some legal aspects for a logical conclusion.

"AIIMS and CBI are in agreement on the Sushant Singh Rajput death case but more deliberations are needed. There is a need to look into some legal as-



pects for a logical legal conclusion in due course of time. It will be totally conclusive," Gupta told ANI.

The Delhi High Court asked the Centre, PCI and NBA on Tuesday as to what steps they have taken on its order to treat as a representation actor Rakul Preet Singh's plea to stop media reports from connecting her with the Rhea Chakraborty drug case and take a decision on it.

Justice Navin Chawla directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Press

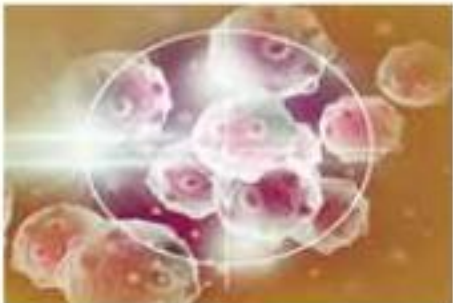
Council of India and National Broadcasting Association to file status reports indicating all the steps taken by them pursuant to the court's September 17 order to treat the contents of the actor's petition as a representation. The court issued notice to them and sought their replies on a fresh application moved by the actor seeking interim directions to them to ensure that the media does not broadcast any programme or publish any article connecting her with the case.

## IIT researchers discover new molecule to treat prostate cancer

**Surat:** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar, claim to have discovered a new molecule which can be used as a targeted therapy for prostate cancer.

The research in collaboration with scientists at Louisiana State University Health Center, USA and the University of Manchester, has also been published in international journal "Cell Press, iScience".

According to Sivapriya Kirubakaran, Professor at IIT Gandhinagar, who led the research, about 5.56 lakh Indians die of cancer every year, and the increasing resistance to anti-cancer drugs is also of grave con-



cern.

"Prostate cancer, the second most commonly occurring cancer in men worldwide needs a hormone called 'androgen' to grow. The standard treatment method is hormonal therapy or androgen-deprivation therapy (ADT) which provides respite from disease progression. However, it could fail when cancer spreads to other

parts of the body leading to a terminal phase of the disease," Kirubakaran told a news agency.

"We have discovered a new molecule called J54 which has shown great potency not only in cells but also in animals (mice model) to completely reduce tumour (prostate cancer) in 50 days (in male mice). The median time for prostate cancer to shrink in human male patients is about 18 months, some quicker, some slower, depending on the size of tumour detected," she added.

Sivapriya further explained that this molecule is the first selective inhibitor of the protein that causes cancer initiation and growth, mainly in the prostate.

## Hathras gang-rape victim succumbs in Delhi hospital

**Aligarh (IANS):** A 19-year-old Dalit rape victim, who was gang raped and left paralysed by four upper caste men, died a fortnight after the attack in a Delhi hospital on Tuesday. She was shifted to the Safdarjung Hospital in the national capital on Monday evening after her condition deteriorated.

On September 14, the victim was dragged by the dupatta around her neck to a field when she had gone to collect cattle fodder, which injured



her spinal cord. When she was held down, she apparently bit her own tongue which caused a deep cut

Fakhrul Hoda, head of neurosurgery at the Aligarh hospital where she was being treated, told reporters that "Surgery to fix her spine could

only have been done after her condition improved. The damage to the spinal cord appeared to be permanent."

The victim, youngest of five siblings, was on life support for some time. The girl was referred to Delhi on Monday on her father's request. Her brother accompanied her to Delhi. A week after she was hospitalised, the girl told the police that she had been raped by four men whom she also named.

All four accused she named -- Sandip, Ramu, Lavkush and Ravi -- were arrested for gang rape, attempt to murder and under sections of the SC/ST Act.

Her father had told reporters on Sunday that the families of the four accused have been threatening them for speaking out. The girl had also told her family that the four men had threatened her with dire consequences if she informed anyone about the incident.

# India has never accepted 1959 definition of LAC with China: Centre

**New Delhi (IANS):** Warning Beijing against advancing its untenable unilateral interpretation, India on Tuesday said that it has never accepted the 1959 definition of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

In response to queries on a recent media report quoting a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement regarding China's position on the LAC, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Anurag Srivastava, said, "India has never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese

side." Under various bilateral agreements, including the 1993 Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC, the 1996 Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the military field, the 2005 Protocol on Implementation of CBMs, the 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question, both India and China have committed to clarification and confirmation of the LAC to reach a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC.

In fact, the two sides had engaged in an exercise



to clarify and confirm the LAC up to 2003, but this process could not proceed further as the Chinese side did not show willingness to pursue it, Srivas-

tava said. "Therefore, the insistence now of the Chinese side that there is only one LAC is contrary to the solemn commitments made by China in these agreements," he said.

The Indian side, Srivastava said, has always respected and abided by the LAC. As Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated in the Parliament recently, "It is the Chinese side, which by its attempts to transgress the LAC in various parts of the Western Sector, has tried to unilaterally alter the status quo."

The spokesperson said that in the last few months, the Chinese side has repeatedly affirmed

that the current situation in the border areas should be resolved in accordance with the agreements signed between the two countries.

In the agreement reached between the External Affairs Minister and his Chinese counterpart on September 10, the Chinese side had reiterated its commitment to abide by all the existing agreements.

Srivastava said that India expects "the Chinese side will sincerely and faithfully abide by all the agreements and understandings in their entirety and refrain from advancing an untenable unilateral interpretation of the LAC."



**New Delhi:** Human rights organisation Amnesty International on Tuesday announced that it has decided to halt its operations in India after a successful eight-year run alleging that its bank accounts were frozen as part of government's "witch-hunt". The decision which came after the recent move by the Enforcement Directorate to freeze the organisation's accounts will impact about 150 employees. It said, "compelled to let go off staff in India".

In a press statement, Amnesty said "the complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the government of India, which it came to know on 10 September, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt."

Meanwhile the government says the global rights watchdog never registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, which is required for any foreign funding.

The organisation has alleged that its "lawful fundraising

model" was being portrayed as money-laundering because it has challenged the "government's grave inactions and excesses". "The continuing crackdown on Amnesty International India over the last two years and the complete freezing of bank accounts is not accidental. The constant harassment by government agencies including the Enforcement Directorate is a result of our unequivocal calls for transparency in the government, more recently for accountability of the Delhi police and the government of India regarding the grave human rights violations in Delhi riots and Jammu and Kashmir. For a movement that has done nothing but raise its voices against injustice, this latest attack is akin to freezing dissent," said Avinash Kumar, Executive Director of Amnesty International India.



## Mehbooba's detention can't be forever: SC

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court permits Ittija Mufti and her brother to meet their mother Mehbooba Mufti in detention. Ittija had approached the apex court seeking the release of her mother on Tuesday. The SC says detention cannot be forever and "some via media" should be explored.

The court also said that the PDP leader should place a request to authorities for attending party meetings and asked the J-K administration to respond to Ittija Mufti's fresh plea challenging detention of her mother under the Public Safety Act.



## Time to settle tricky retro taxation issue

The controversial retrospective taxation issue came to the fore yet again after British telecom giant Vodafone last week won arbitration award at The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration against the Indian government in a long-pending Rs 20,000 crore tax dispute.

This tax dispute dates back to 2007 when Vodafone bought 67 per cent stake for \$11 billion in Hutchison Essar, a joint venture of Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa and India's Essar group. Post the deal, India's tax authorities issued a notice to Vodafone asking why it did not deduct tax on the transaction. Subsequently, the dispute landed in courts and Bombay High Court ruled in favour of the tax authorities. Thereafter, Vodafone approached the Supreme Court which ruled in favour of the telecom operator in January 2012.

Following this, the then United Progressive Al-

liance (UPA) government at the Centre brought in amendments to tax laws with retrospective effect in March that year to overturn Supreme Court orders. Under the amended laws, the tax authorities served a tax notice to Vodafone in 2013, demanding an immediate payment of Rs 14,200 crore. Interestingly, the initial tax demand was for Rs 11,792 crore. But with penalties and interest charges, the amount has since increased to over Rs 20,000 crore.

This tax dispute is a complex one. Vodafone acquired majority stake in Hutchison Essar through an indirect route. Vodafone's Dutch subsidiary bought majority stake in Hutchison Essar's holding firm which has its registered office in the tax haven Cayman Islands, from Hutchison Whampoa. That means ownership of the holding company of Hutchison Essar changed, not that of the telecom operator. The dispute arose over whether the Indian tax authorities could collect capital gains tax on such indirect transfer of ownerships. SC maintained in its 2012 judgment that capital gains tax could not be collected on such transactions.

However, the 2012 amendment to tax laws brought in by the then Finance Minister Pranab

Mukherjee provided the way for capital gains tax on such transactions retrospectively. But global investors and companies raised objections over the amendments and retrospective taxation. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which was in Opposition when the amendments were enacted, stoutly opposed the move. It maintained a similar stance after it was voted to power in 2014. The then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley assured investors that the NDA government would not make any changes retrospectively that would foist fresh liabilities on companies and business deals. It also set up a panel to examine such cases arising out of the 2012 amendment.

As the NDA opposed the tax amendments when it was in opposition and when it came to power, it's better the Modi government honours the last week's arbitration award and provides relief to Vodafone. It should also amend the tax laws again to see that the no retrospective taxation would be levied on indirect acquisitions. That will send positive signals to the global investors. It's time the Modi government takes proactive steps on the controversial retrospective taxation.



## Why green hydrogen may be the clean fuel for future

PRATHA JHAWAR,  
GODWIN ADAMS

Hydrogen is gradually becoming a part of the clean-energy mix for a sustainable and affordable energy future. It is being increasingly seen as a prospective component that will drive energy transition — the decarbonisation of energy sector — as well as a shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy (RE).

While the energy transition is in a nascent stage, development of hydrogen markets and projects is gathering pace and traction. Hydrogen has potential uses in various end-use sectors, including industry, transport, power and distributed energy.

Hydrogen can be produced through multiple methods: One of the most established ways is to split water into hydrogen and oxygen through an electrolyser using RE sources.

The hydrogen thus produced is green hydrogen; other methods are accompanied by carbon emissions.

Declining costs of renewables, along with the necessity of curbing greenhouse gas emissions, is shifting the potential growth of hydrogen upwards in political and business perspectives. Hydrogen technologies will supply 18 per cent of the world's total energy needs in future and will be able to power around 425 million vehicles around the world by 2050, according to estimates by industry body Hydrogen Council.

The European Commission's Energy Roadmap for 2050 has proposed that 85 per cent of energy will be produced by renewables; 65 per cent of it will come from solar and wind. This would entail a 10-fold increase in energy storage. To meet this demand, the commission has proposed use of excess electricity to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen and store hydrogen for later use.

Many other countries / regions are aiming to reduce emissions by shifting entirely to low-carbon electricity. South Australia state aims to generate 100 per cent electricity from low-carbon sources by 2025; Fukushima prefecture by 2040; Sweden by 2040; California in the United States by 2045; and Denmark by 2050.

The declining cost of solar and wind is expected to increase their share in the future energy mix. Moreover, RE cannot only be used to provide low-carbon electricity but also create green hydrogen that can displace fossil fuels in the end-use sectors such as transport, industries, building. It can also replace fossil fuels as feedstocks in several processes.

This makes hydrogen a versatile technology that can help decarbonise economies.

The cost of electricity is the most significant factor in electrolytic hydrogen production.

**Declining costs of renewables and urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions is accelerating potential growth of hydrogen in political and business perspectives**

Low-carbon hydrogen produced with Carbon Capture Use and Storage (CCUS) or renewable electricity is, in most cases, costlier than the hydrogen generated from unabated fossil fuels.

The cost of hydrogen produced from natural gas is generally around \$1.5–3/kgH<sub>2</sub>, while for hydrogen generated from renewable electricity (solar PV or onshore wind), it is around \$2.5–6/kgH<sub>2</sub>.

Wood Mackenzie Ltd, an energy research and consultancy, has estimated that green hydrogen would be competitive with the gas produced from fossil fuels by 2040. However, Thierry Lepercq, founder of Soladvent, a company in France specialising in hydrogen, is very optimistic.

During a webinar on 'Role of Hydrogen in Renewables' conducted by EQ Magazine on September 4, he said the combination of super-cheap solar and electrolysis and the ramp-up of mid-stream infrastructure should decrease the cost of green hydrogen to \$1.5 per kilogramme by 2025 — and then to \$1 by 2030 — matching the cost of natural gas in Europe. Higher efficiencies, effects of scale, plant automation, plant load maximisation can help reduce the electrolysis plant costs to \$300 per kilowatt by 2025 and to \$200/kW in 2030.

The potential scale of hydrogen use in India is huge and can increase by three-ten times by 2050, facilitating the transition to a carbon-neutral economy, according to The Energy and Resources Institute, a not-for-profit, policy research organisation.

Nonetheless, several obstacles need to be overcome to tap the full benefits of hydrogen in energy transition.

Among these barriers are inadequate recognition of its importance; the lack of mechanisms to alleviate and share long-term risks of primary large-scale investments; lack of coordinated action across stakeholders; of fair economic treatment of developing technology; and limited technology standards to drive economies of scale.

The long-term advantages of hydrogen are stimulating and present an encouraging picture for energy transition. The commercialisation of products has accelerated this sector growth over the last three years.

Improvements in cost and performance of hydrogen-related technologies along with the entire value chain would help unfold a green hydrogen revolution.

## ADVANTAGE AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

# A turning point for farmers

R K PACHNANDA

After retirement from the army, my father took up farming at Village Shahpur, on the Pinjore-Nalagarh Road, in Haryana. After every wheat harvest, my mother used to cart the wheat herself on the tractor to the Chandigarh mandi. She used to wait for hours, sitting in the tractor, in the hot sun at the mercy of the 'Arthiyas' at the Mandi to purchase the wheat.

It was harassment of the highest degree; the arthiyas would always blackmail the farmers. These arthiyas had converted the mandis into dens of monopoly. The mechanism which was created to protect the farmers ended up throttling them. Not much effort was made in developing any infrastructure for collection and the farmers were always at the receiving end.

With the passing of the momentous Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, the position will now change in favour of the farmers who will be no longer be at the mercy of the middle-men and arthiyas.

The Modi government is on the path of transforming farmers into entrepreneurs with better incomes and quality of life. These reforms will greatly benefit farmers, processors and also the consumers. The reforms lay down stringent safeguards to protect the farmers from any blackmail or malpractices and will ensure competition and more efficiency in the market system and also give the freedom of choice to the farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country, since the country will now be one market.

There will be competition to arthiyas who will now be in no position to fleece the farmers, who will now have several avenues to sell their produce. There will be backward linkages with the food processing industry. Farmers will now be able to plan their investments in the shape of contracts with companies for contract farming, providing crop advisories and inputs with an assured buy back at assured prices.

The Modi Government had already enforced a Rs 6,685 crore scheme for creation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) and recently created a 1 lakh crore Agricultural Infrastructure Fund. Farmer Producer Organizations will give bargaining powers to farmers and capacitate them to reap the economies of scale.

The Agricultural Infrastructure Fund will enable them to invest in farm infrastructure and acquire better equipment



**The Modi government is on the path of transforming farmers into entrepreneurs with better incomes and quality of life. These reforms will greatly benefit farmers, processors and also the consumers. The reforms lay down stringent safeguards to protect the farmers from any blackmail or malpractices and will ensure competition and more efficiency in the market system and also give the freedom of choice to the farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country, since the country will now be one market. There will be competition to arthiyas who will now be in no position to fleece the farmers, who will now have several avenues to sell their produce. There will be backward linkages with the food processing industry. Farmers will now be able to plan their investments in the shape of contracts with companies for contract farming, providing crop advisories and inputs with an assured buy back at assured prices.**

for achieving better yields. The Government will also assist in promotion and provision of technology and advice as per the market demand to achieve better quality, quantity and profitability. With a large number of farmers registered under each FPO, farmers can enter in agreements with leading companies for better terms and conditions and, consequently, better incomes.

The agricultural reforms, coupled with analyzing market trends and demands, will empower the farmers to shift to growing crops and fruits with increasing demand in lieu of or in addition to what they are already producing -- a great step to achieve an Atamanirbhar agriculture.

The farmers will also get an opportunity to link-up with agri-businesses who will procure directly from the farmers and be able to run their operations effectively, eliminate system inefficiencies and reduce costs which will further result in higher farmer income as also a concomitant development of agri-businesses.

Greater diversification and innovation in business models like farmer management services, digital market places, warehousing and quality centers will attract investment and improve productivity, reduce costs and post-harvest wastages. Japan had, decades ago, treated agriculture like industry. Now we too shall be able to do likewise as

market reforms will attract private capital inflow to give a fillip to the rural economy as also sectors like logistics service providers, warehouses operations and processing.

Infusing technology in agriculture will lead to the much needed metamorphosis in Indian agriculture. Hence, using international best practices, relevant to us, India will emerge as a key factor in global food supply chains and a food export reservoir of the world in the future - the success of PM Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Even though just 6 to 8 per cent of farmers in India benefit from the government minimum support price operations, the Prime Minister has reassured farmers that government purchase of their produce coupled with the Minimum Support Price mechanism will continue.

The government has finally unshackled the clique of people exploiting the farmers. It is therefore clear that the so-called farmer agitations have been driven by vested interests; the gullible farmers are being misled by unholy alliances to agitate against these landmark reforms which are meant to benefit them and propel them into a new era of agricultural development.

In fact, it is only after these historic reforms come into play will the lives of the farmers see a new sunrise of modernization and prosperity in a New India.

*(The writer is a retired Director General, ITBP. His views are personal)*

### The new agri Bills are pro-business

The Prime Minister in his Man Ki Baat programme has taken some pain to convince the agitating farmers on the advantage of the three Bills passed in the Parliament recently. The argument he has placed looks and sounds good to hear but in reality it carries lurking dangers of annihilating the small and medium farmers from the field and create a comfortable field for the corporate firms to play havoc that is likely to see the end of days of India enjoying self reliance in food.

It is true the farm productivity needs to be increased keeping the future needs in mind. But none of the provisions of the controversial Acts can address this need. It is too imaginative to expect a farmer in a corner rural area of a remote state to sell his produce in a market in Delhi or Mumbai. Even if it is enabled by the corporate firms or licensed middle men the benefits may not reach the farmer or consumers.

Even if MSP is not done away with in the competition with giant private firms allowed to carry on procurement the government institutions will fade away leaving the farmers without any viable alternate. The agreement under contract farming has its compulsions like buying seeds, pesticides, fertilizers specified by the contracting party leaving no choice for the farmer over these materials or their costs. Grading is likely to play its havoc in accepting or rejecting the produce as already faced by many in the field.

In all the entire effort of the government is to facilitate the corporate companies in the field and not at all to benefit the farmers. A minister resigning and trusted partner like SAD leaving NDA further make the fears of the farmers to be genuine. Therefore instead of viewing this issue from political

angle it is better to review from nationalist spirit and repeal the Acts at the earliest.

A G Rajmohan, Anantapur

### Disgraceful honour killing

Though we are living in 21st century, we are witnessing honour killings. On one hand humans are sending satellites to the Mars to explore, on the other hand killing others on caste basis. How disgraceful! Perhaps this is the act, that devalues human race more than any other issue.

Manthana Madhukar in Peddapalli district Mathani, Pranay in Myryalaguda and a couple of days back Hemant Kumar in Hyderabad were brutally killed on caste bias. Dr B.R. Ambedkar said "we can neither build a nation nor a moral on caste basis." These words were said half a century ago but even to date there is no change in the nature of humans regarding caste free society.

As the poet Rabindranath Tagore said we are building narrow domestic walls among us in the name of castes. Inter caste marriages play a vital role in making caste system disappear. But people with extreme mind set, are making these honour killings happen.

Governments should also proceed strictly in punishing the people that kill others on caste basis. And they must think of 'Moral Education' making a part of syllabus for school children. Children right from the beginning must be taught how annihilation of caste strengthens our society and unite us. Where there is a caste free society there is unity. Humans must rise above caste system.

K Manoj Kumar, Huzurabad, Karimnagar

### India shows aggressive intent

Trust deficit in dealing with China seems to be the main stumbling block for India in resolving the stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh according to a senior officer as China wants the talks to be confined to south bank of Pangong Tso while the talks should cover the entire eastern Ladakh and begin from Depsang as the south bank ought to be the last point of discussion.

It is clear that China is apparently not attaching importance to the ongoing diplomatic and military engagements by India to defuse the situation and pave the way for de-escalation and disengagement on the LAC. India deploying an array of missiles, tanks and big guns all along with LAC, now seems to be the only way out of sabre-rattling by China to prove that India is no longer what it was in 1962.

Pakistan on the western front is in cahoots with China, where the former is in illegal occupation of large chunks of Indian territory under its occupation to the tune of 5,180 sq kms, that Pakistan had no compunction to donate large parts of these areas to China, for the building infrastructure and road construction as an economic corridor between the two countries with a view to intimidate and undermine India. India has proclaimed it would reclaim the territory under Pakistani occupation, in a not distant future. The mischief by China on the LAC will not be allowed and tolerated as before since India is preparing more systematically, and is engaged in infrastructure development in the area in activities of road construction and connectivity, in these areas that are going on day and night.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

## LETTERS

### A new awakening for Indian farmers

There is a concerted and deliberate attempt by opposition parties to discredit and slander the recently promulgated farm bills which are path-breaking and paving the way for a prosperous life to the farming community.

All these years, the Left and other secular parties along with bogus farmer groups comprising middle men and commission agents were misleading and misguiding the farmers for their own political benefit. The farmers have been released from their bondage and can opt for many easy ways to handle their produce resulting in good and fair returns.

Pawar family in Maharashtra and Batala in Punjab have been keeping the farmers under their stranglehold and hence shed crocodile tears at the turn of events. This will be an awakening moment for the farmers.

BJP lost in Punjab mainly due their ally viz. SAD who had, over the years, have gained bad reputation due to their corrupt and high handed actions. BJP was just waiting for a way to get rid of them and now a golden opportunity has landed on their lap. Good riddance SAD.

Let all the other chief ministers wake up and do a honest study of the bills, understand them properly and take reasoned decisions in order to help the genuine farmers. In every state the politicians form a cartel to force the farmers to sell their produce to the caucus promoted by these self appointed guardians.

J Kannan, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com



# ‘Declare MSP for all crops on Oct 1’

● Chief Minister tells officials during Spandana videoconference that Minimum Support Price for crops should be displayed at RBKs by Oct 5

● Asks them to inform farmers about procurement at RBKs and coupons should be distributed in advance

● Authorities told to speed up registration of farmers on e-cropping platforms for all crops

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of the crops should be announced on October 1 and the list should be displayed at all Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBK) by October 5.

During the Spandana review meeting here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the farmers should be informed in advance about procurement at RBKs and asked the officials to distribute coupons in advance. He reviewed the procurement of agricultural produce and discussed preparation, planning on the cultivation of rabi crops.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities to expedite the registration of farmers on e-cropping platforms without missing any single farmer and told them to complete e-cropping listings for every crop without any pending. “e-cropping will make it easier to pay the insurance premium for the crops and to provide them with a minimum remunerative price and compensation in case of crop loss,” he stressed.

Multi-Purpose Facilities Centres (MPFC) would be set up next to the RBKs by the next year, at an estimated cost of Rs 6,300



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing a videoconference with District Collectors and SPs as part of Spandana from his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday

crore. The facilities such as warehouses, drying platform, collection centres, cold storage units, Janata Bazaars, cattle sheds, and aqua infra will be provided to the farmers. The collectors should identify the lands next to RBKs in the coming 15 days.

In addition to the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister also reviewed the working of village secretariats, and NREGA works across the state. He directed the district collectors to visit village/ward secretariats twice a week and the joint collectors should visit four times in a week. District collectors and JCs should own the village secretariat system as it directly connects to the people, he said and added that the performance of district collectors and JCs will be measured based on their active role in the village secretariats.

On NREGA, he directed the officials to work keeping a target to utilise Rs 10 crore material component in a week in every Assembly constituency.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the damage done during the recent heavy rains and floods with the collectors of affected districts of Krishna, Guntur and Nellore. The estimates on the quantum of loss should be made and sent at the earliest. The enumeration should be displayed at RBKs.

The Chief Minister has announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of eight people who died in the rains.

## CM says Covid spread in declining is State

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy stated that Covid-19 infection spread is declining, with the positivity rate coming down to 8.3 per cent from 12 per cent in the last couple of weeks.

During the videoconference with district collectors and SPs as part of the Spandana review here on Tuesday, he said that the number of tests has increased while the number of cases has decreased. Reiterating that we have to live with Covid by taking precautionary measures, he instructed authorities to be vigilant and to make best use of 104 call centre in creating awareness among the public and to also provide information related to the availability of beds, test results, and hospitals.

The Chief Minister stated that AP is the only state offering Covid treatment under Aarogyasri scheme and ordered the authorities to display the list of Covid hospitals including those empanelled hospitals in the village and ward secretariats.

He further directed the officials to ensure standards in all 240 COVID hospitals and monitor if sanitation, staff and infrastructure are in place, proper food is being pro-

vided to patients and conduct periodical inspection drives. The state government had recruited 30,000 medical staff and equipped 37,000 beds in hospitals across the state. He said home isolation kits should be given to every patient who is in home isolation and Asha workers, ANM and PHC doctor must be in contact with them and follow up their treatment.

On YSR Health Clinics, the Chief Minister instructed the collectors to speed up the works for setting up the clinics and accelerate the tender process. He told the authorities not to delay the works and start the construction work at the earliest.

With regard to the setting up of 16 new medical colleges in the state, the officials were told to expedite the land identification process for the medical colleges at Amalapuram, Madanapalle, Piduguralla, Adoni, Eluru and Pulivendula. The officials were also informed to accelerate the process of identifying additional land for expanding the existing medical colleges in Kakinada, Anantapur and Ongole.

Deputy Chief Minister Alla Nani, Ministers Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Botch Satyanarayana and others took part.

SS CHARY

**Rajamahendravaram:** The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) which is facing severe fund crunch for the last six months following drastic fall in its revenue as tourist activity came to a standstill due to Covid-19 pandemic.

In a bid to improve its revenue, the APTDC is taking up catering service to supply food to corona patients recuperating in Covid care centres in some districts.



Many employees working in APTDC are not getting salaries due to fund crunch, which may also have prompted the corporation to take up this service to earn revenue.

As per the request of the APTDC, the managing directors of the corona care centres in the districts concerned accorded it permission to cater food to patients.

Speaking to The Hans India here on Sunday, APTDC divisional manager T S Veerananarayana said that the decision of APTDC will benefit it a lot.

In East Godavari district, the APTDC will supply food to nearly 2,700 corona patients in East Godavari alone from October 1, including 1,000 patients in

corona centre at Bommuru, 1,200 patients in corona centre at Bodasakurru and 1,000 patients in Kakinada.

The APTDC will arrange kitchens with latest facilities at the three centres to supply quality and quick food, including breakfast, lunch and supper.

The food will be given to them as per the guidelines issued by the government and the APTDC will charge Rs 320 per head.

He further said after cooking food it will be packed in special trays by machines only and sent to the centres through trolleys.

From October 1, APTDC will supply food in Rajamahendravaram, Kakinada, Amalapuram, Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi, Kurnool and Eluru.

## OP services limp back to normalcy

**Tirupati:** The outpatient services for non-Covid patients in SVIMS and Ruia hospitals have been limping back to normalcy in the last 15 days. After Sri Padmavathi Medical College hospital attached to SVIMS has been designated as state Covid hospital and Ruia hospital was made district Covid hospital, they have completely focused on extending Covid services while attending only emergency non-Covid services. With

many doctors and other nursing staff infected by the deadly coronavirus in SVIMS and the entire area being exposed to the positive patients and their wards, the hospital stopped all OP services for two months and resumed only on September 14. Ruia hospital, on the other hand, has admitted only a limited number of emergency cases and referred many Aarogyasri patients to network hospitals.

## RTC employees urged to improve revenue



Principal secretary and vice-chairman and managing director of RTC MT Krishna Babu addressing the zonal and regional managers of the RTC from RTC Bhavan in Vijayawada on Tuesday

● ₹5 lakh compensation to employees who dies due to coronavirus infection

● Employees to work on rotation basis

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The Road Transport Corporation (RTC) has lost sizable revenue due to the discontinuation of bus services from March 22 to May 20, stated vice-chairman and managing director of RTC and principal secretary MT Krishna Babu.

While addressing the executive directors of all zones and regional managers through video conference on Tuesday, the managing director said that the staff should strive to improve the revenue. The RTC officials were instructed to rearrange the seats in the buses as per the new guidelines. They should plan accordingly to increase the number of bus services as per the demand.

Referring to the Covid-affected RTC staff, he said that about 4,500 employees were affected by the coronavirus and 72 have died. In case of new cases were found among the employees, they should be given proper treatment facilities. The services of the employees should be utilised on rotation basis as only 30 to 40 per cent buses are being plied.

The MD said “It has been decided to provide Rs 5 lakh to the families of the deceased staff by donating one-day basic pay of the employees. The programme will be implemented soon through transport minister Perni Venkatamaiah”.

Security deposits of the shopkeepers in the bus stations should be returned and the shop rent from March 22 to June 7 should

## One passenger for one seat in buses

No standing passengers are allowed and all the passengers must wear face mask

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** KS Brahmananda Reddy, executive director (Operations) stated that one passenger for one seat would be allowed to travel in the buses and the new seat arrangement would be followed as per the new guidelines of the Central government.

There will be 11 three-seat frames and 9 two-seat frames in the Palle Velugu buses. One person in one seat will be allowed first and after filling the seats, second passenger will be allowed to sit in the three-seat frames, Brahmananda Reddy said. However, no standing passenger will be allowed in the buses. Every passenger should wear mask while travelling in the bus. The stall owners in the bus stations would be encouraged to sell masks.

be waived. The MD said “The services of the private persons could be utilised to run the cargo services to improve the revenue”. He set the target of Rs 200 crore through cargo during the financial year of 2020-21. The revenue earned during August and September was enough to cover the diesel expenses. Since the RTC had to repay Rs 70 crore loan amount to the banks from October onwards, the staff was instructed to run the buses up to 30 lakh kilometres per day with an occupancy rate of 60 per cent earning at least Rs 250 crore per month.

## Write to me directly, not thru media, DGP tells Naidu

● Says letters addressed to him but released to media may contain ‘unverified and wrong’ facts

● In response to TDP chief’s letter on Sunday to him regarding alleged attack on suspended Judge Ramakrishna’s brother Ramachandra in Chittoor, the top cop says it is only a scuffle over parking of vehicles at a market

● Claims that the person involved in the fight with Ramachandra ‘is a staunch supporter of TDP’ and has been arrested



**Amaravati:** Director general of police D Gautam Sawang appealed to former Chief Minister and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu to refrain from posting letters to the media addressed to him as the missives may have unverified details.

“Kindly refrain from posting letters addressed to the undersigned (Sawang) in the media since the contents may have unverified and wrong facts which may needlessly arouse suspicion in the minds of the public at large and cast aspersions,” said Sawang.

However, he offered Naidu the opportunity of writing to him in private to help police discharge their lawful duties.

“You may kindly write to me in a sealed cover and help the

police in discharging their lawful duties and protecting the rights of people at large, thereby maintaining and enforcing the rule of law,” he said.

The DGP was replying to Naidu’s Sunday letter to him, in which the TDP supremo claimed that an attack on a person called Ramachandra in Chittoor district was planned and sponsored by the ruling YSRCP, aimed at curbing the dissent of his brother and suspended Judge Ramakrishna.

Referring to the alleged attack, Sawang said a case was registered and the facts were explained to Naidu. On Sunday, around 4.30 pm, Ramachandra went to buy fruits at a vegetable market in B Kothakota. While he was buying fruits, Pratap

Reddy from Narayanapalli passed by in a car along with three other persons.

“A verbal altercation ensued between a push cart vendor and Reddy over the former blocking the path of his car. It was then that Ramachandra, brother of suspended Judge Ramakrishna, who was in an inebriated condition entered into a verbal duel,” said the DGP.

The argument quickly aggravated into a scuffle, prompting the bystanders to intervene and separate them and later shifting Ramachandra to a community health centre, where the medical officer noted that the judge’s brother was inebriated.

As Ramachandra suffered an abrasion on his nose, he was referred to the district hospital in Madanapalle for further treatment.

“On the basis of the statement given by Ramachandra, a case under Section 34 IPC and SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act was registered at B. Kothakota. The investigation was immediately taken up by SDPO, Madanapalle,” said the DGP.

Based on eyewitness accounts and video footage, Sawang said Ramachandra was injured in the scuffle with Reddy which occurred due to sudden provocation.

“It is also established that Reddy is a staunch follower of the TDP. Keeping the above facts, Reddy was arrested earlier on Monday,” he asserted.

## Govt accused of ignoring attacks on temple

● Citing latest incidents of vandalism in temples in Kurnool and East Godavari districts, the miscreants are emboldened by the apathetic attitude of the Jagan govt

● Condemns attempts by the YSRCP govt to blame TDP for the attack on suspended Judge Ramakrishna’s brother in Chittoor



**Amaravati:** TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu accused the YSRCP government of taking a lenient view of the ongoing attacks on the temples and Dalits in the state due to which attacks were going on unabated.

Addressing a meeting of party senior leaders and in-charges of all 175 Assembly constituencies on Tuesday, he cited the latest incident of idols being vandalised at Angara Mangalam village in Gangadhara Nellore mandal of Kurnool district and also at Mandapeta in East Godavari district. Observing that Dalits became a prime target in the Y S Jagan Mo-

han Reddy government, Naidu condemned the destruction of a burial ground of weaker sections in Chilakaluripeta where 171 tombs were removed forcibly in utter disregard for the sentiments of the Dalits in the name of modernisation. On DGP Gautam Sawang’s statement that the person who attacked suspended Dalit Judge Ramakrishna’s brother was a TDP supporter, Naidu accused the YSRCP of trying to implicate and pass the blame on to the TDP for all the illegal activities and excesses of the ruling party leaders everywhere. “Immediately after the attack, local DSP hinted at filing a case against one Kumar Reddy and three others. A day later, the SP said there is no political involvement and Kumar Reddy’s name was removed and replaced by one Pratap Reddy’s name,” he said.

## Police recover mobiles worth ₹7 cr

**Tirupati:** Chittoor police cracked the case related to the looting of smartphones, which took place a month ago at Nagari on the Chennai-Mumbai highway. The police raided the dens of Kanjarabhat interstate dacoit in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh and recovered smartphones worth of Rs 7 crore and arrested some accused on Tuesday. Under the direct supervision of SP Senthil Kumar, the special team spent one month in Dewas district to crack the case.

## Wife hires killers to murder hubby

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kurnool:** A woman got her husband killed by hired killer at Chinna Gummadapuram village under Kothapalli police station limits in the district on Monday. The victim was identified as Gangaiah, 35, of Shivapuram village. The contract was agreed for Rs.3.50 lakh and one lakh was given in advance.

According to Atmakur CIB R Krishnaiah, the Gangaiah married Durgamma of Chinna Gummadapuram 18 years ago and have two children. The wife had been pressuring Gangaiah to leave the joint family so that she and children can



have some freedom.

This led to frequent arguments between the couple. Miffed over her husband’s refusal to come out of joint family, she occasionally went to her maternal home at Chinna Gummadapuram but returned intervention of elders. A week ago, she demanded her husband to get his share of property or she would

desert him. Accordingly, she left Gangaiah and went to her parents.

Gangaiah went to his in-laws village on September 28 asked them to send his wife with him. An altercation took place there when his in-laws said to have warned him to see his end. On the evening of the same day, three members of hired killers’ gang, took Gangaiah out from his in-laws house on the pretext of talking over the issue. They hacked him to death and left the body in the deep Nallamalla forest.

As Gangaiah did not return home, his brother Ganga Mahesh went to his sister-in-laws village and enquired about him. Her parents

threatened to kill him too like his brother. On the the information given by them, Ganga Mahesh found the spot where his brothers body was thrown. He immediately informed Kothapalli police station, said Krishnaiah.

Police shifted the body to Atmakur government general hospital for post-mortem. A case under Section 302 IPC was registered against Durgamma and three others. Accused are yet to be arrested, he said.

He further said that the hired killers had acted upon the direction of a political leader. The facts would come to light after thorough investigation, Krishnaiah added.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### India among worst performing economies

India is among worst performing economies in the world and the government's economic stimulus was inadequate to tackle the problem. The stimulus measures did not increase consumption spending of lower income people as government was not willing to put money in their hands

- Nobel Laureate **Abhijit Banerjee**



## EXIT

### Gati founder resigns from board

Supply chain solutions provider Gati Ltd said its founder and Managing Director Mahendra Agarwal has resigned from the board. He has also resigned from the board of Gati-KWE and Gati-Kausar. Allcargo Logistics is now the promoter and single-largest shareholder of the Hyderabad-based Gati Ltd with 47 per cent ownership

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.28	South	
Euro	90.66	African Rand	4.97
UAE Dirham	22.11	Hong Kong Dollar	10.96
Thai Baht	2.68	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.71	New Zealand Dollar	51.06
Australian Dollar	55.15	Saudi Riyal	21.64
Canadian Dollar	58.04	Swedish Krona	9.41
Swiss Franc	83.21	Singapore Dollar	56.6

DELHI WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### UTI AMC IPO subscribed 27%

**New Delhi:** The initial public offer of UTI Asset Management Company was subscribed 27 per cent on the first day of bidding on Tuesday. UTI AMC initial public offer (IPO) received bids for 73,02,609 shares against the book size of 2,73,50,957 shares. The portion reserved for non-institutional investors was subscribed 6 per cent and those for retail individual investors (RIIs) 51 per cent. UTI AMC raised Rs 645 crore from anchor investors on Monday. The IPO of UTI AMC comprises sale of 3,89,87,081 shares or 30.75 per cent stake by existing shareholders. State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), and Bank of Baroda are offering to sell 1,04,59,949 shares each, while Punjab National Bank (PNB) and T Rowe Price International are going to offload 38,03,617 shares each.

### AO Smith's new product

**Hyderabad:** AO Smith announced the addition of the ProPlanet series, 5-star-rated water purifiers in terms of water savings. The ProPlanet water purifiers are equipped with reverse osmosis (RO) and silver charged membrane technology (SCMT) that provides 100 per cent RO-purified, baby-safe water, using an eight-stage purification process. Parag Kulkarni, Managing Director, AO Smith India, said: "AO Smith has been gaining the trust of consumers ever since we entered the water purifier category. Today's consumers have a greater inclination for advanced purification technologies when it comes to drinking water and this has resulted in increased demand for such water purifiers in the country. The ProPlanet series, which has raised the bar in its segment yet again, is designed for the discerning consumers who are both environmentally conscious, as well as health conscious."

### Volkswagen opens used car outlet

**Hyderabad:** Volkswagen Passenger Cars India announced the launch of its digitally integrated service outlet for pre-owned cars, Das WeltAuto Excellence Centre, in Hyderabad. Through this initiative, the brand aims to strengthen its one-stop solution to buy, sell or exchange certified pre-owned cars by providing unique retail and customized services. Customers can avail a bouquet of features including professional car evaluation, special finance offer, unique accessory packages and hassle-free transfer. Steffen Knapp, Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "Customer experience is at the core of our brand philosophy and with the introduction of DWA Excellence Centre, we believe we will be catering to the ever-evolving pre-owned car segment."

### Vu Group's video meet device

**Hyderabad:** Vu Group, which is present in 4k television segment has launched its new video conferencing product, Meeting by Vu. It provides business professionals with an efficient and platform-agnostic experience. It also packs in features that promise to solve technical and ergonomic issues like laptop fatigue as well as incorporating multiple people into a meeting. "Having sold over 2.5 million TVs in our more than 10 years of business, Vu has tremendous experience in screens, optics and audio-video technologies. Meeting by Vu is the result of all our learnings in the lifestyle space and is designed for the new age workstyle. It is easy to use, high on technology and innovation, and geared for the future," says Devita Saraf, Chairman and CEO, The Vu Group.

# Ambani's wealth shoots up 73% to ₹6.58 lakh crore

## ADANI MOVES UP IN RANKINGS OF RICHEST INDIANS

### DEFYING ALL ODDS

- Despite a 23% reduction, Hinduja Brothers are worth ₹1.43 lakh cr and able to retain 2nd position
- HCL's Shiv Nadar and family with Rs 1.41 lakh cr, 34% growth, at 3rd slot
- 4th richest Gautam Adani records 48% rise in his wealth to Rs 1.40 lakh cr
- Wipro's Azim Premji slipped two places to 5th position with fortunes of Rs 1.14 lakh cr
- Cyrus Mistry's networth down by 1%



**Mumbai:** The personal network of Reliance Industries (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani rose by 73 per cent to Rs 6.58 lakh crore, helping him retain the title of being the richest Indian for the ninth consecutive year with a wider margin, according to a report released on Tuesday. The list identified 828 Indians who are worth over Rs 1,000 crore as of August 31 and made it to the list of richest Indians.

Ambani, 63, who has been selling stakes in telecom and retail arms lately leading to a strong performance in the Reliance Industries stock price, is also in the top five at a global level, the report prepared by Hurun in association with IIFL Wealth said.

The rankings come at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a deep economic im-

pace on the lives and fears are being expressed about a K-shaped recovery, which will result in more inequalities in the society.

Cyrus Mistry and Shapoorji Mistry of Shapoorji Pallonji group, which is seeking nearly Rs 1.78 lakh crore for its 18 per cent stake in Tata Sons, saw a one per cent decline in their wealth at Rs 76,000 crore each.

Gujarat-based Gautam Adani, who is diversifying into many businesses, saw a 48 per cent rise in his wealth to Rs 1.40 lakh crore and moved up two places in rankings to being the fourth richest Indian. Hinduja Brothers, who are reported to be in a property dispute, are worth Rs 1.43 lakh crore and were able to retain the second standing despite a 23 per cent reduction, according to the list. They are fol-

### MAHIMA DATLA LONE WOMAN ENTRANT FROM T, AP IN LIST

The state rich list of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh recorded nine new entrants in 2020. These individuals contributed a cumulative wealth of Rs16,600 cr to IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020, and the state list as well. With a wealth of Rs4,700 cr, Mahima Datla along with her family is the only woman entrant to feature in the list. New entrants include prominent personalities -- media mogul Ramoji Rao with Rs2,500cr, Dasari Jai Ramesh (Vijay Elect) with Rs1,300cr, Meka Yugandhar (Karvy Stockbroking) with Rs1,100cr and Varaprasad Reddy (Shantha Biotech) with Rs1,000cr. As many as 51 hail from Hyderabad, three



from Visakhapatnam, and two each from Ranga Reddy and Secunderabad feature in the list as well. The cumulative wealth of individuals in the AP & T list registered a 34 per cent increase compared to last year. With three names each, Medha Servo Drives, Virchow Laboratories and Singhania Foods International contribute Rs7,200 cr, Rs4,000 cr and Rs3,800 cr respectively to the AP & T list.

lowed by HCL's Shiv Nadar and family whose fortunes rose 34 per cent to Rs 1.41 lakh crore.

Wipro's Azim Premji slipped two places to fifth in the rankings with fortunes of Rs 1.14 lakh

crore. The world's largest vaccine maker Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla had a 6 per cent rise in wealth at Rs 94,300 crore and was at sixth place.

### Etrio raises \$3mn to launch new EVs in India

**Hyderabad:** City-based electric vehicle startup Etrio has raised of \$3 million (approximately Rs 22 crore) in Series A round from high networth individual investors based out of Singapore.

The investment will fuel Etrio's foray into new electric vehicles (EVs) in three-wheelers and bicycle product lines, the company said, adding that it aims to focus on customer acquisition across both the B2B and consumer segments.

The group of investors is led by serial investor, Janardhan Rao, founder of Triumph Global Group, a Singapore-headquartered international commodity trading house.

"With over a year of extensive work, we finally make our big transition from retrofitment to creation of new electric vehicles," Deepak MV, Co-founder and CEO, Etrio, said in a statement.

## Key indices end flat in choppy session

### Market takes a breather after 2-day stellar rally

**Mumbai:** After two consecutive sessions of thumping gains, the key benchmarks - Sensex and Nifty - took a pause on Tuesday amid lack of directional cues from domestic and global markets. After starting the session on a positive note, the BSE Sensex was caught in an intense volatility as the trade progressed, paring all intra-day gains to end 8.41 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 37,973.22. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 5.15 points or 0.05 per cent to 11,222.40. Of the Sensex constituents, 20 logged losses and 10 registered gains.

"After a gap up opening, the benchmark indices grew volatile, before ending the day flat. Global markets were also undecided and slightly negative for the day as the outcome of the first US presidential debate was



awaited," said Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services. Analysts said that domestic equities traded on a choppy note amid lack of directional cues from the domestic as well as global markets. On the Sensex chart, ONGC was the top loser, shedding around three per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, NTPC and ITC. On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC were among the gainers.

## OIL posts ₹2,584-cr profit: CMD

**Guwahati:** State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has posted a profit after tax of Rs 2,584 crore with revenue of Rs 13,649 crore in fiscal 2019-20, its Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Sushil Chandra Mishra said on Tuesday. Addressing the 61st Annual General Meeting (AGM) virtually, he said that during 2019-20, OIL's annual domestic production of crude oil stood at 3.133 million metric tonnes and domestic natural gas production was 2,801 million metric standard cubic metres.

"OIL reported revenue of Rs 13,649 crore and profit after tax of Rs 2,584 crore," he said, describing 2019-20 as a challenging year with weak global economic growth, resulting in weaker demand across sectors.

"Lower average crude oil prices, as compared to the previous year, and other factors beyond control affected the company's activities in the main producing area, especially in the last quarter of 2019-



20. However, despite the difficulties, OIL completed the year 2019-20 on a positive note, leveraging the best of available advantages and building on available opportunities," Mishra said.

"The OIL drilled 11 exploratory wells in the PML (Petroleum Mining Lease) areas in Assam and Rajasthan with a success rate of over 70 per cent. The company has made one more HPHT (High Pressure High Temperature) gas discovery in the NELP (New Exploration Licensing Policy) Block in KG basin." The CMD also told the AGM that the success of the Cyclic Steam Stimulation process,

implemented in 2018-19, led to production increase of 168 per cent from OIL's Rajasthan field.

Meanwhile, the company recorded its highest-ever dividend from overseas business.

"Production from overseas assets corresponding to OIL's participating interest was 2,177 MM-TOE. Cumulative dividends till March 31 corresponding to OIL's share received from producing assets in Russia stood at \$406 million, equivalent to about Rs 3,000 crore.

"OIL recovered close to 47 per cent and 29 per cent of its investments in Vankorneft and Taas Yuriakh, respectively," he said.

Mishra also said that OIL has drawn up ambitious plans for the future, including fast tracking of exploration in Arunachal Pradesh and developing the Baghewala heavy oil field in Rajasthan besides strengthening OIL's presence in other sectors of the hydrocarbon industry.

## RBI extends interim relaxations in WMA limits, OD regulations

**New Delhi:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the interim relaxations it made for the state governments earlier this year to ease the restrictions on their borrowing limits, given the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, the timeline for state and Union Territory (UT) governments to avail increased provisions via the 'ways and means advances' (WMA) limit has been extended from September 30, 2020 to March 31, 2021. On April 17, the RBI had announced an increase in WMA limit of the states or UTs by 60 per cent over and above the level as on March 31, 2020.

In financial parlance, the 'ways and means advances' (WMA) is a mechanism used by the RBI, under its credit policy, to provide advances to states, banking with it, to tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.

This is repayable in each case, not later than three months from the date of making the advance. Similarly, the relaxations in overdraft (OD) regulations has also been extended till March 31, 2021.



The OD regulations relaxation was given in order to provide flexibility to state governments to tide over their cash flow mismatches, with effect from April 7.

Consequently, the relaxation increased the number of days for which a state or UT can be in overdraft continuously to 21 working days from 14 working days, and the number of days for which a state or UT can be in overdraft in a quarter to 50 working days from 36 working days. "Both these relaxations are currently available till September 30. "On a review, it has been decided to extend the above-mentioned measures announced on April 17, 2020 and April 7, 2020 with regard to increase in WMA Limits of states/UTs and OD regulations, respectively, for a further period of 6 months till March 31, 2021.

## Digital move top priority for large cos

**New Delhi:** While 68 per cent of companies have seen revenue declines amid the pandemic, nine out of 10 large enterprises are either maintaining or increasing their digital transformation budgets amid the Covid-19 pandemic globally, a Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) survey said on Tuesday.

Among shifts in technology spends due to the pandemic, companies reported maximum increases on collaborative technologies (65 per cent), cybersecurity (56 per cent), cloud-native technologies (51 per cent) and advanced analytics (39 per cent).

"Companies that had embraced digital transformation more whole-heartedly performed better during the pandemic and expect a faster rebound, whereas others are now focused on making necessary investments and racing to catch up," said Rajashree R, Chief Marketing Officer, TCS.

The global survey engaged almost 300 senior business leaders from large enterprises (97 per cent with revenue

The analysis compared organisations that had more advanced digital capabilities in place prior to Covid, referred to as 'leaders,' with those that had fewer, if any, in place, known as 'followers.' The survey showed that fewer leaders (64 per cent) have seen their revenue decline, compared to followers (73 per cent).

above \$1 billion and 44 per cent above \$10 billion) spanning 11 industries across North America, Europe and Asia.

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The survey showed that fewer leaders (64 per cent) have seen their revenue decline, compared to followers (73 per cent).



Prior to the pandemic, the average organisation surveyed had only 9 per cent of its workforce working mostly from home.

"That percentage has increased seven-fold and is expected to remain elevated through 2025, when the average company projects 40 per cent of its employees will work largely from home."

Higher level of automation in core business processes is another priority area -- already deployed at 23 per cent of companies and under de-

velopment at 44 per cent of companies, the findings showed.

The survey identified six digital capabilities as critical factors in companies withstanding the pandemic: end-to-end digital customer experience (CX), AI-based analytics to continually improve the consumer experience, core enterprise systems in the cloud, highly automated core business processes, digital sensors tracking products and key partnerships in digital ecosystems.





## Sonu Sood takes part in Green India Challenge Plants saplings at Ramoji Film City

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Film actor Sonu Sood, who drew national attention by sending stranded poor to their native places during the lockdown period, on Tuesday accepted the Green India Challenge given by film director Srinu Vaitla and planted saplings at Ramoji Film City.

While appreciating the efforts taken up by Rajya Sabha MP

Joginapally Santosh Kumar, Sonu Sood opined that post covid, saving the environment has occupied the centre stage. He also stated that everyone of us should become part of saving environment by planting saplings and saving them. Meanwhile, the Green India challenge has been receiving immense response with celebrities, politicians and other noted personalities actively taking part in it.

## KTR prods lax corporators ahead of baldia battle

State government to bring out Pragati Nivedika, a report highlighting the works taken up by it in the last five years in Greater Hyderabad limits

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The State government is set to bring out a report, Pragati Nivedika, on the development works taken up in the last five years in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits.

This was announced by Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao who held a meeting with the corporators and public representatives of TRS from GHMC here on Tuesday. During the meeting, he said that the government in the last five years had spent over Rs 67,000 crore on various developmental works in Hyderabad. All the details of the development works executed in the last five years would be compiled into a report titled Pragati Nivedika, and would be released shortly asking all the corporators and elected public representatives to explain the citizens in detail about all the good work done by the government in Hyderabad region. Assuring that all long-standing issues of ownership rights of non-agricultural properties would be sorted out, the Minister



ter said awareness had to be created among citizens about the Dharani portal and the exercise being taken up by the government. Due to different reasons, registrations and title-related issues of properties in few places have been held up in the city. The State government would address all such issues for the benefit of people, the Minister assured. The government had already launched an exercise for people

to voluntarily register details pertaining to non-agricultural properties on the Dharani website, KT Rama Rao said, adding that there would be complete transparency in the process besides there would be no scope for middlemen or agents in the exercise and people need not pay a single rupee.

Regarding the forthcoming Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar Graduates MLC elections enrolment from October 1, the Minister appealed to all the corporators and public representatives to enrol their names in the voters list and encourage the graduates to enrol their names. All efforts should be made to improve the poll percentage in Hyderabad for MLC elections by enrolling all graduates as voters, he told the corporators. It is learnt that the Minister was unhappy with the functioning of corporators. He had reportedly cautioned about 15 corporators from the city and asked them to pull up their socks. He asked the corporators to take the issues if there were any to the notice of MLAs for redressal.

## E-voting for senior citizens, disabled, poll staff

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** State Election Commission is contemplating to provide e-voting process for senior citizens, disabled and elections staff in the ensuing Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This was announced by the State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi during a meeting with the zonal commissioners during the training program of Te-poll software here on Tuesday. He said the SEC in coordination with the Information Technology department was trying out the possibilities of going for E-voting in the forthcoming elections. He also said E-Voting would stand as a role model innovation for the entire country. The Commission would also use face recognition software in 150 polling stations including one in each of the 150 divisions in GHMC. The SEC said that one polling station from each ward in the 150 division would be selected for the face recognition software. He said that it was one of the advanced innovations to identify voter with the available data. In earlier elections this technology was piloted in ten polling stations

to assess accuracy.

The SEC said that usage of advanced technology in forthcoming elections would enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability. The SEC said that in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, usage of maximum technology would help all the stakeholders to conduct elections smoothly. With the advent of technology voters can download voter slip, constituency and polling station wise voter list, know polling station etc.,



on line within no time, he said. The SEC said that technology would ease the process of polling from nomination to declaration of poll results. Te-poll software would allow contesting candidates and party candidates to view all the details online. It will also reduce manpower working hours as well as ensure accuracy, he said. The SEC further said that the training programme was aimed at training GHMC officials on election process management, polling personnel randomisation system, counting personnel randomisation system, election expenditure module etc. The officials from six zones were given extensive training on Te-poll software and were also provided hands-on-training, he added.

## TS Planning Board VC appointed as TISS member

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana Planning Board vice-chairman B Vinod Kumar has been appointed as member to the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Hyderabad campus for a period of two years.

The Centre has recognised TISS as grade one-deemed university during the year 1964 and the institute runs on the funds from University Grants Commission (UGC). The main campus of the university is in Mumbai and other campuses are in Hyderabad, Tuljapur in Maha-

rashtra and Guwahati in Assam.

Founded in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduates School of Social Work, TISS was designated

by the government of India in 1964. TISS Hyderabad was set up on the invitation of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Ministry of Human Resources Development of India. The TISS Hyderabad has six Masters programs

with various specialisations. The advisory committee would meet twice in a year to review progress of the campus and provide guidance in navigating challenges for the future.



## Crowds flocking cable bridge throwing safety measures to wind: Health department

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Durgam Cheruvu Cable-stayed bridge was recently inaugurated and the denizens have been flooding the place to see for themselves the wonderful architecture that is set to become a tourist attraction for Hyderabad. However, the health department has advised against the mass gatherings.

Director of Public Health Dr G Srinivasa Rao showed a few pictures of the heavy crowd gathered on the bridge to make his point. He further added that there was no physical distancing and most of the people were not even wearing

Says a political party's procession from airport also violated rules

masks. "We will have the excitement to see and visit and play around which is not wrong. However, if we don't take precautions, it can lead to a cluster of cases or an outbreak. When you go to such public places, precautions are a must. It is advisable to avoid crowded places or mass gatherings. Cable bridge won't disappear in one or two months. It will be



there forever and people can see whenever they want after the situ-

ation improves," the director said. Also, the health department

also faulted the recent procession by a political party (referring to Congress) from the airport welcoming their newly-appointed in-charge for the State. Director Srinivas Rao said that leaders and activists took part in big numbers without taking basic precautions.

With the GHMC elections and by-elections round the corner, the health department also cautioned political parties to focus on safety measures without fail. Any negligence on part of people can lead to a surge in cases like seen abroad in countries like United Kingdom, where a fresh wave of coronavirus cases was being witnessed, he said.

## NIMS course creating future leaders, CEOs of hospitals

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** NIMS is inviting applications for Masters in Hospital Management (MHM) PG programme aimed at preparing highly qualified managers and administrators for efficient running of hospitals. This unique course started in NIMS in 2004 and this is going to be the 16th batch pursuing the two and half year course.

According to Dr M Ramesh, Academic in-charge for MHM course, the passed out batches had achieved hundred percent placement with some of them going up to the coveted post of hospital CEO also.

In addition to various medical and paramedical programmes, the institute felt the need for creating distinctly qualified teams of young managers for effectively running the hospitals and health care institutions. That's how the intensive Master's Programme in Hospital

- The institute felt the need for creating distinctly qualified teams of young managers for effectively running the hospitals and health care institutions.
- That's how the intensive Master's Programme in Hospital Management course came up for graduates from not only medical but also non-medical backgrounds
- The last date for sending applications is October 8 (online) and October 10 (in person) with more details available on NIMS website



Dr M Ramesh, Academic Incharge, MHM course, NIMS

Management course came up for graduates from not only medical but also non-medical backgrounds. The expansive infrastructure and experienced faculty who have worked in the healthcare sector for more than two decades, provides an ideal atmosphere for pursuing the

MHM programme, Dr Ramesh said.

The course curriculum is spread over four semesters of classroom instruction, practicals, and fifth semester of internship in a hospital. The first and second semester subjects offer an in-depth knowledge about the fundamentals of hospital

administration with special emphasis on business environment, economics organisation theory, Human resources, decision analysis, and computers in administration. The third and fourth semester subjects offer exposure to operations management, research methods, hospital revenues and expenditures, etc.

The classroom sessions are designed for in-depth understanding of the field of hospital management with special emphasis on hospital services planning, hospital information systems. These courses strengthen functional skills and deepen the understanding of the multi-dimensional environment in which health care organisations operate.

Career prospects for the candidates in the Hospital Management Programme are excellent. The placement cell is in constant touch with the potential employer-hospitals and other healthcare organisa-

tions. Over 200 students from our institute have found placement in leading hospitals and healthcare institutions throughout India and abroad. Dr N Yobu, CEO of the noted Ramdev Rao Hospital in Kukatpally, was a student of the first batch that pursued MHM course at NIMS between 2004 and 2006. According to him, a hospital can run successfully if and only if it has able doctors on rolls as well as efficient administrators, who set things in place and ensures coordination and teamwork among all other departments and wings in the hospital. He said the NIMS curriculum for MHM is one of the best combining academic and practical experience hand in hand to prepare the best managers.

MHM course incharge Dr Ramesh said that the last date for sending applications is October 8 (online) and October 10 (in person) with more details available on NIMS website.

## Three temples deleted from non-hereditary trust boards

**Hyderabad:** The State government on Tuesday deleted three major temples in the State from the list of temples for which the government constitutes non-hereditary trust boards. The three temples which are deleted from the list include Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam, Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam, Vemulawada, Rajanna-Sircilla district and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam, Yadagirigutta, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district.

## Gandhi Hospital to resume non Covid care

**Hyderabad:** Health Minister Eatala Rajender has directed officials to resume non-Covid treatments in Gandhi Hospital and other teaching hospitals in the State. This decision was taken so, that PG doctors from various departments do not lose out on academic year.

Eatala conducted a review with senior officials of the department on corona situation in the State. He was informed about the decline in number of cases in several districts of the State. He wanted no reduction in the number of tests per day and gave directions to continue with the increased testing figures as being done at present.

He said that corona is not looking fatal at present but, public should not invite undue risk by letting down the guard

## IT companies told to restart operations by Health department

DME K Ramesh Reddy says that a company having 100 employees can resume work by with one-third of its staff present in office every day

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The State Health Department has called upon IT companies in Hitech City and Cyberabad to resume their operations taking safety precautions and scattered duties for employees. It said that all businesses and offices are resuming operations, but taking all required precautions that are the need of the hour.

DME K Ramesh Reddy and Director of Public Health G Srinivas Rao said that a company having 100 employees can resume work by with one-third of its staff present in office every day. They pointed out to over 3 lakh gov-



ernment employees doing duties taking Covid-19 safety precautions.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot to



equip every bed in the State government hospitals in GHMC limits and in all districts with oxygen facilities in the coming months.

Elaborating details, K Ramesh Reddy stated that there are 22,000 beds in government hospitals at present out of which 7,172 are equipped with oxygen line while another 1225 are ICU beds with oxygen and ventilator facilities. Nearly 8,000 plus have oxygen lines now and the remaining 14,000 will be covered in the coming months. Oxygen lines for all beds would be helpful for not just Covid patients but, non-Covid patients having respiratory, cardiac and other issues going forward.

Prior to Covid the number of oxygen beds in government hospitals was just 1,665, officials pointed out.

## TS BJP yet to strengthen cadre in 10,000 polling booths

VRC PHANIHARAN

**Hyderabad:** The State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to step up its efforts to strengthen the party in 10,000 and odd polling booths spread across the State.

It may be mentioned here that earlier the party had chalked out an elaborate plan of action to strengthen the party from the level of polling booth following the directions of the then party chief and current Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

However, even after a lapse of one-and-a-half years that the saf-ron party had rolled out its Vistrak Saptah, it is still not able to make a headway in 10,000 out of 32,000 polling booths in the State.

According to party sources, as per the set standard, a 'C' category polling booth is one where the party had polled less than 10 votes.

But in reality, the 10,000 polling booths identified are critical since the party had got only four to five votes during the earlier elections.

The troubled polling booths for the party are mostly located in the combined Khammam, Warangal, rural parts of Ranga Reddy and in two more districts, and the party is yet to make inroads in those areas.

Speaking to The Hans India, party senior leader Perala Shekhar Rao said that at present the party has completed 90 per cent of activation of polling booths in the State and there are only a few which would be the party's focus soon.

He said the formation of the district and mandal committees have been completed. The formation of the new booth committees would also be completed soon.

When asked about the presence

of a weak base structure of the party at the booth level, he said, the party was weak at few places in Adilabad, Karimnagar and in few other places. But the way people responded electing four MPs in the Lok Sabha elections shows the BJP's growing appeal among the masses. Post Lok Sabha elections, the party has gone down to the village and booth level with a solid party activity in Adilabad, Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts. Currently, the party sees itself being active in six out of 10 combined districts of the State and covers with its activities in the two-thirds of the political landscape in the State.

Also, in several districts, the Congress leadership along with their MLAs have joined the TRS. In turn, the BJP has filled the gap and become alternative to the TRS, he added.



## Tokyo Oly: Indian team can finish in top 4, says Deepika Thakur

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former Indian women's hockey star Deepika Thakur believes the current team, led by Rani, has a strong chance to finish in the top four in the Olympic Games scheduled to be held next year in Tokyo.

Deepika, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna Award, feels the team has it in them to bounce back when international competitions resume after the Covid-19 break despite the fact that they have not been in competition for a significant part of this year.

"I certainly believe the team can bounce back. They were in good rhythm after winning back-to-back tournaments last

year and they had done well in New Zealand earlier this year."

"They were high on confidence too. This team is hungry to achieve success at the highest level and hence I am sure once competitions resume, they will bounce back and do everything in their capacity to finish top 4 in Tokyo," she added.

Moving forward, Deepika feels the team should remain motivated and focused on their goal of doing well at the Olympic Games. "The current Indian side is very committed and focused. But when you have to be in national camps without competition, it is easy to feel less motivated," stated the experienced defender.

"Also, without competition, it is difficult to assess improvement. Hence, I would say it is a very crucial time for the team and each player should have her own yardstick and must work on raising the bar," she added.

Deepika, who was part of the Indian team at the Rio Olympics in 2016 and was a significant contributor to lift the Asian Champions Trophy title in 2016, further credited the team's resurgence to Hockey India who according to her have ensured there are no setbacks in the team's preparations despite the ongoing battle with the Covid-19 global pandemic.

"I am happy that the team was able to resume activities



soon after nationwide lockdowns ended. Even though there may not be any competitions this year due to the prevailing travel restrictions, remaining in the national camp will allow the players enough time to return to old form and keep up their fitness level," she said. The defender, who has

over 200 international caps, believes Hockey India has ensured that the women's team gets "fantastic" exposure at the international level and planning the ACTC (Annual Calendar for Training and Competition) accordingly has been critical in the team's resurgence.

## Clark to step down as CA community cricket chief

**Melbourne (IANS):** Former Australia captain Belinda Clark has announced she will step down from her Cricket Australia (CA) role after three decades of service to cricket.

Clark, who has been CA's Executive General Manager (Community Cricket) for the past two-and-a-half years, and worked in cricket administration for more than 25 years, will step down from her post on November 30 this year. However, she will continue to serve as the director of the Local Organising Committee for the ICC T20 World Cup which is scheduled to be held in Australia in 2022.

The 50-year-old said now was the right time to step down, allowing her time to focus on her passion of helping empower girls to find and explore their leader-



ship gene. "I have loved my time working for the sport and while this chapter is coming to a close after 20 years with CA, a further 6 years with CNSW and a long standing member of ICC Women's Committee, I am committed to finding new ways to give back to the game that has given me so much," she said as per a CA media release. "My dream is to help young girls develop the confidence, skills and courage to step forward when leadership opportunities arise," she added.

## In a 1st, Bumrah fails to win Super Over for MI

**Dubai (IANS):** The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 witnessed another thrilling contest between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians which the Virat Kohli-led side were able to win in the Super Over.

On Monday, Bangalore posted 201/3 while batting first, riding on brilliant half centuries from Aaron Finch (52), Devdutt Padikkal (54) and AB de Villiers (55). In response, the Rohit Sharma-led side managed to match the score, courtesy brilliant knocks of 99 and 60 not out from Ishan Kishan and Kieron Pollard respectively in their allotted 20 overs.

The result of the match was decided through a Super Over in which Mumbai Indians could



Royal Challengers Bangalore batsmen AB de Villiers and Virat Kohli celebrate after winning a match against Mumbai Indians

muster seven runs and then RCB chased down the 8-run target on the last ball of the over

bowled by Jasprit Bumrah at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

This was the first instance for Mumbai Indians where they lost a match in the Super Over bowled by Bumrah.

Earlier on April 29, 2017, Bumrah had won the match for Mumbai Indians against Gujarat Lions when he managed to defend 11 runs. Bowling to the likes of Aaron Finch and Brendon McCullum, the Indian pacer gave just six runs for his six deliveries at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot.

Then on May 2, 2019, Bumrah again won the match for his franchise against SunRisers Hyderabad when he conceded just eight runs in the Super Over which Mumbai Indians chased down within the first three deliveries at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

**Duba (IANS):** The Super Over win over reigning champions Mumbai Indians (MI) on Monday should give us a big boost, going forward in the IPL, said Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain Virat Kohli after the edge-of-the-seat thriller here on Monday.

Rohit Sharma, captain of the losing team, said his Mumbai Indians would take "a lot of positives" from this game played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

The match went into the Super Over after both teams were levelled at 201 in their allotted 20 overs. In the Super Over, MI managed only seven runs. Chasing, Kohli and AB de Villiers helped their side achieve the target off the final ball of the over.

"I don't have words right now. It was such a roller-coaster game. I think they played really well and patiently in the middle. It



Mumbai Indians batsman Ishan Kishan plays a shot during the Indian Premier League 2020 cricket match against Royal Challengers Bangalore, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai

went down to the wire; we tried to execute the things we wanted to. We've got a close victory and these little things on the field...we really want to focus on it," said

Kohli after the game.

"I thought about who are the best guys to come back for two and it was me and AB. It was all about stepping onto the field and taking responsibility. Fielding is something we need to work on. If we'd taken our chances, it wouldn't have been so close," he said.

Kohli was happy with the character his players showed.

"It was a good match-up against Jasprit. Top quality cricket and games like these, people would love to watch. The changes that we made, make Washi (Washington Sundar) bowl in the power-play paid off. Gurkeerat didn't get a chance to bat. The guys showed good character. Outstanding Super Over from him (Navdeep Saini). He used the yorkers and wide balls to good effect. This should boost us going forward," said the RCB captain.

## Chanu's training plan in US sanctioned

**New Delh (IANS):** The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has sanctioned weightlifter Mirabai Chanu's proposal of Rs 40 lakhs for a two-month overseas training program in Kansas, US along with her coach and physiotherapist, as well as her rehabilitation for a long standing injury that she had been carrying.

The decision was made at a virtual meeting which took place on Monday to discuss financial proposals of over Rs. 1.5 crores of athletes in six sports shooting, badminton, boxing, para sports, weightlifting and hockey who are part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), as per a SAI statement.

The committee also sanctioned the proposals of shooters Anjum Moudgil and Mairaj Ah-

mad Khan for their equipment and training requirements. The panel also ratified the three month overseas training program (effective from September 7) of boxer Vikas Krishan along with his personal coach Ron



Simms Jr. in US.

It also sanctioned the participation of three badminton players -- Kidambi Srikanth, Saina Nehwal and Lakshya Sen -- in the Danish Open Super 750. Further, it also sanctioned Sen's training in Denmark and participation in the SaarLorLux Open.

## Nadal, Serena kick off bids for Roland Garros title

**Paris (IANS):** Defending champion Rafael Nadal and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams advanced to the second round of the ongoing Roland Garros with straight-sets wins in their respective opening round matches. On Monday, Nadal defeated Belarusian Egor Gerasimov 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the second round where he will face Mackenzie McDonald. "It is a different Roland Garros. Totally different than we are used to... But for me this year is as special as every one at Roland Garros," Nadal said on court as per the ATP Tour website.

"I am going to keep trying my best. I am happy to be in the second round (after) a good start and now is the moment to go back to the hotel, have a good practice tomorrow and try to be ready for the second round," he added. In the women's singles, Williams began her quest for a 24th Grand Slam title, surviving a topsy-turvy opening set to ultimately ease past fellow American Kristie Ahn 7-6(2), 6-0. "The biggest difference was just confidence," the American said after the match as per the WTA website. "I just need to play with more confidence, like I'm Serena."

"So that was it. I just started playing like that, and I love the clay and I started playing like it, open-



ing the court and moving and sliding," she added.

Up next for Williams is US Open quarterfinalist Tsvetana Pironkova.

Meanwhile, newly-crowned US Open winner Dominic Thiem also claimed straightforward victory as he defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. However, Russia's Daniil Medvedev was unable to clinch his first win at the Roland Garros after suffering a shocking 6-4, 7-6(3), 2-6, 6-1 defeat against Hungarian Marton Fucsovics. It was the fourth successive first-round-exit for Medvedev at the Roland Garros.

## Yash Aradhya set to race at French Formula 4

**Bengaluru:** Bengaluru boy Yash Aradhya, multiple-time National Champion in Karting and Formula 4 is all set to race in the FIA FFSA French Formula 4, 2020.

The FIA Formula 4 French is organised by the French Federation of Motor Sport Auto Sport Academy known as "FFSA Academy" under the aegis of The Federation Internationale De'l Automobile known as "FIA"-the world Motorsports governing body.

The only Indian in the series, Yash will be participating in the Open Category of the FIA Formula 4 French which is scheduled at the Paul Ricard circuit in Le Castellet, France. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the championship calendar was rescheduled multiple times and finally kick started in August



2020. While Yash hasn't been able to compete in the first three rounds of the Championship due to Visa related delays, he is all set to participate in the remaining four rounds, thereby, gaining a strong footing for the next year in Europe.

## 'New IPL sensation Rahul Tewatia is a good thinker of game'

**KAISER MOHAMMAD ALI**

**New Delhi (IANS):** Criminal advocate Krishan Pal Tewatia had never received so many phone calls in a single day as he did on Monday and had never received so many unknown visitors at his home in Sihi village in Sector 8 of Faridabad, near Delhi. Reason: His only son and latest IPL star, Rahul Tewatia, had on Sunday sprung into the limelight at Sharjah as he set up an improbable win for Rajasthan Royals with the bat.

The little-known Tewatia, a leg-spinner in the traditional mould and a hard-hitting left-handed batsman, catapulted to headline news by Sunday midnight after he swatted 53 off 31 balls, including seven sixes, at No.4 that took Royals to the brink of victory. The 27-year-old player was out when only two runs were required for a win, which Royals duly sealed - and he instantly attracted global fame.

Tewatia's pyrotechnics with the bat not only triggered celebrations in the Royals' camp, but

in his home in Sihi village, over 2,000 kms away from Sharjah, people descended in hordes to congratulate Krishan Pal for his son's fearless performance.

"They told me Rahul was not just my son but that he was the 'son of the village'. I met so many people and received so many calls that I got a headache. I must have met around 400 people who visited my home and must have received about a thousand calls -- all congratulating me for Rahul's performance. I am overwhelmed," Krishan Pal told IANS.

Tewatia has also represented the ONGC cricket team on a stipend. "Tewatia is a good package. He is very good at improvisation, and grabs opportunities with both hands. He would usually bat at No.5 or No.6, but if he bats at No.4 he would be more useful. And he possesses a good flipper and googly, and has control over these deliveries. He helped ONGC win several tournaments in Delhi and outside, like Goswami Ganesh Dutt Memorial, Om Nath Sood, and JP Atray Tournament. He is also



jovial and has a good sense of humour. He is well-behaved, and is a good thinker of the game," Gautam Vadhera, a former ONGC Games Coordinator and former Delhi Ranji batsman, told IANS.

Tewatia's cricket story is like a rollercoaster. Apart from representing all age-group and Ranji Trophy teams of Haryana, he has also turned out for Kings XI Punjab and Delhi Capitals, besides twice for Rajasthan Royals. But till Sunday night he had failed to make people sit up and take notice, either with his leg-spin or hard-hitting batting.

It was a casual suggestion from a friend of Krishan Pal's younger brother Dharamveer that set off Tewatia's cricket journey. Krishan Pal said two persons played key roles in the transformation of Rahul from being village boy to a global star. "Rahul as a kid was playing with a plastic bat and ball when Mukesh, a friend of Dharamveer, noticed the spark in him. He was the first one to suggest that we should put Rahul into cricket. The other person who played a key role was former India wicket-keeper Vijay Yadav," said Krishan Pal.

Once the family was convinced of the idea, Krishan Pal asked Rahul to sit on his motorbike and took him to Cricket Gurukul, the cricket academy of Vijay Yadav. Rahul was about eight years old at the time, around 2000-01, and his cricket journey had well and truly begin.

"When he came to me he was already bowling leg-spin and he was a decent bat. The most important thing that I immediately noticed was his eagerness and willingness to play; and he was dheet [stubborn] too, in a positive sense. He had 100 per cent positive attitude, still has. He would grab the ball or the bat and would confidently ask me to send him to bat up the order and he would win me the match, or ask for the ball and say he would dismiss the opposing batsmen," former Test wicket-keeper Vijay Yadav told IANS.

"His game suits the shorter formats. He was always good at batting. I would always tell him to focus on his batting more because in the shorter formats it becomes easy to get into an XI if one is a

batting all-rounder, someone who can score meaningful runs lower down the order. Rahul also has leadership qualities, and he showed that in all the local matches that he would play," said the former Haryana captain.

Tewatia represented Haryana in under-15, under-19, and under-22 tournaments. But it was difficult for him to break into the Ranji Trophy. "Haryana at the time already had three class leg-spinners - Amit Mishra, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Jayant Yadav. So, it was difficult for Rahul to get into the Ranji team, and because of that his father became a little unhappy as well, though momentarily," recalls Yadav, who himself was a hard-hitting batsman.

Then came the 2018 IPL auction and it changed Tewatia's life. Till then 24-year-old taken only 13 wickets in 17 matches. From a base price of Rs 20 lakh, he was grabbed by Delhi Daredevils for an unexpected Rs.3 crore, following fierce bidding that also involved Kings XI Punjab and SunRisers Hyderabad.



## FIFA hands Paraguayan Marco life ban for fixing

**Zurich(IANS):** FIFA has handed a lifetime football ban to Marco Trovato, president of Paraguayan club Olimpia, for match fixing. Along with the ban, Trovato has also been fined 100,000 Swiss francs (around \$108,000), FIFA has said in a statement.

FIFA's disciplinary committee found the 41-year-old guilty of "manipulation of football matches and competitions" and of failing to comply with his duty to collaborate during disciplinary proceedings.

"The decision to sanction Trovato is related to a series of matches that took place between 2018 and 2019, while he was president of the club," the world football governing body said on Monday without providing further details.