

however, said that it was yet to be ascertained whether the youth had provoked the tiger. Locals tend to take photos and videos of the tigers to share it on social media platforms and this irritates the big cats and they, in turn, attack the humans, officials said. The man-animal conflict was also documented by the Forest officials many years back.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



RAKUL SINGH
@RAKULPREET

Late but finally accepted #HaraHaiTohBharaHai #GreenindiaChallenge Thank you @chay_akkineni for nominating me. so I have Planted 3 saplings. Further I want to nominate not actors but all my fans to plant 3 trees each and tag me to continue the chain.



Chamomile tea for beauty

When setting yourself up for a good night's rest, chamomile tea is a sure fire way to instil a sense of calm before bedtime. The herbal remedy has been used for thousands of years to promote sleep, relieve stress, and alleviate stomach ailments, acting as a natural medicine to ease heartburn and nausea.

Here are some benefits of the chamomile tea for your skin and hair:

For skin

Sleeping beauty

We all need beauty sleep. After all, it is when we snooze that our skin begins to repair itself, and gets refreshed. This floral tea is a caffeine-free one - it soothes the nerves, calms the nervous system and helps you sleep better. Therefore, it's best to drink it just before you hit the sack.

Treats acne

This magical tea has anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties. Therefore, apart from drinking it, you can also apply it topically on any active acne, scars or blemishes.

Bid goodbye to dark circles

The anti-inflammatory properties of this tea also help reduce the appearance of dark circles and any puffiness in the undereye area. All you have to do is chill some used chamomile tea bags and place them over your eyes for 10-15 minutes. You will see the difference within minutes!

Brightens skin

This also works as an instant pick-me-up for your skin. Dip some cotton in chamomile tea and dab it all over your face. This will not only act as a natural bleach for your skin but will also give it a lovely glow. Want to brighten up your complexion? A chamomile tea splash on the face is your answer.

Soothe that sunburn

No need to panic the next time you come back from your beach vacation with



sunburns all over. Just brew some chamomile tea and leave it to chill in the refrigerator. Next, dip a towel in the tea and dab it on the sunburnt area. This will soothe the affected area and treat the sunburn.

For hair

Controls dandruff

Any scalp irritation or dandruff issues can also be taken care of chamomile tea. It works as a cleansing and moisturising agent for your hair and scalp. All you have to do is use it as your final rinse after washing your hair. Do this twice a week, and you will see a difference soon!

Enriches hair colour and shine

If you have dark hair, a chamomile tea and henna mix can give your beautiful highlights. The bleaching properties in this tea also work their magic on blonde hair by making it radiant and bright.

Hair moisturiser, anyone?

A chamomile tea rinse acts as the perfect moisturiser for the hair. Instead of conditioning your hair after using shampoo, swap and use chamomile tea instead. This will give your hair a lovely lustre and over time, it also provides the mane with a healthy golden sheen. Give it a shot right away!



Zing your life with zinc

Before you ring up the chemist to stalk up on supplements, take a look at these natural zinc sources that are sitting around in your kitchen

Engulfed in an ever growing pandemic, coupled with a fast approaching winter, I get endless enquiries about immunity. My clients want to know which vitamin rich foods they should stock up to be winter ready. Vitamins have become synonymous with wellness and immune protection, and rightfully so. But we always tend to sideline another major component of the wellness tonic - Minerals. Let's shine the spotlight on one such essential trace element of extreme importance - Zinc.

A vital ingredient for all bodily processes especially for Vitamin A absorption. Both are strong antioxidants reducing inflammation and infections in the body. If infected with Covid, zinc



boosts immunity and may improve the sense of taste and smell which one may lose.

It's important for cell repair and growth, helping lymphatic organs eliminate waste properly and for the activity of over 300 enzymes that play a role in digestion



and metabolism. Adequate zinc is required by our DNA machinery and neurological health and helps balance blood sugar levels. Even for healthy skin and preventing acne, zinc works wonders. Before you ring up the

chemist to stalk up on supplements, take a look at these natural zinc sources that are sitting around in your kitchen.

Seeds - I call seeds the miracle pellets. It is amazing how many nutrients they can pack within them, including zinc. Sesame, sunflower, poppy, flax and pumpkin seeds all are rich in zinc. They also contain fiber, healthy fats and other vitamins and minerals. Zinc and fat present in pumpkin

seeds increases male potency and sex drive and with women it builds the hormones, activates sexual fluid secretion. Have a spoonful or two of a homemade seed mix after your meals and get your zinc fix.

Nuts - There is truly nothing better than nuts. They come packed with protein, fiber, good fats and minerals like zinc. Cashew nut is one of the best sources of this mineral. Almonds and peanuts are not far behind. Roast them in the oven with spices to make the perfect snack during this festive season.

Whole-grains - Wheat bran is your highest source of zinc in whole-grains so don't skip rotis with veggies just see the bran is added in the flour! For a one pot meal you could make daliya (broken whole-wheat) with moong and veggies.

Dals and whole-pulses - Moong, masoor, tur, rajma, chole etc. are alternated regularly on my table in form of dhal whole pulses or sprouts. All of them have adequate amount of zinc.

Chocolate - Did your eyes just light up? That's usually the reaction to the mention of chocolate. Cocoa the key ingredient of chocolate is a good source of zinc. I recommend unsweetened roasted cocoa nibs to nibble on.

So, bring the zing in your life with zinc!

Jewellery picks for Dhanteras

Begin the festive cheer with some precious gems and jewellery to light up the celebrations

PUJA GUPTA

Dhanteras, the festival of wealth and prosperity marks the onset of Diwali festivities. Begin the festive cheer by gifting yourself or your loved one a statement jewellery piece that lights up their celebrations.

From gold and silver bars or coins to pearl pendants, coloured gemstone bangles and bracelets, antique temple jewellery or contemporary styles, choose from a wide variety of items, to make the day even more auspicious for your loved ones and bring home the joy of Diwali. You can shop for safely through the comfort of your home at the Jewellery Store on Amazon Fashion.

Gold/Silver coins and bars

Bring love and luck to your home this festive season with a wide collection of varied gold and silver coins and bars.

These are believed to bring good vibes to your loved ones and your home if bought on Dhanteras, while at the same time being a good investment for your family.

Coloured gemstone bangles

While diamonds seem to be the preferred choice, coloured gemstones are becoming quite popular.

You can pick from a variety of bangles and bracelets embellished with coloured gemstones like ruby, emeralds and sapphires to mix and match with all your outfits through the festive season.

Pearl pendants

Pearls never go out of fashion; they can instantly elevate your ensemble by adding the perfect amount of elegance and sophistication. Ideal for at-home festive celebration, work meetings or parties, opt for a classic pearl pendant for simple and chic festive look.

Cocktail rings

A bold, bejeweled cocktail ring makes for the perfect accessory and why not buy it on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras. Be it rainbow-hued or a classic stone of your choice, choose one which complements your personality.

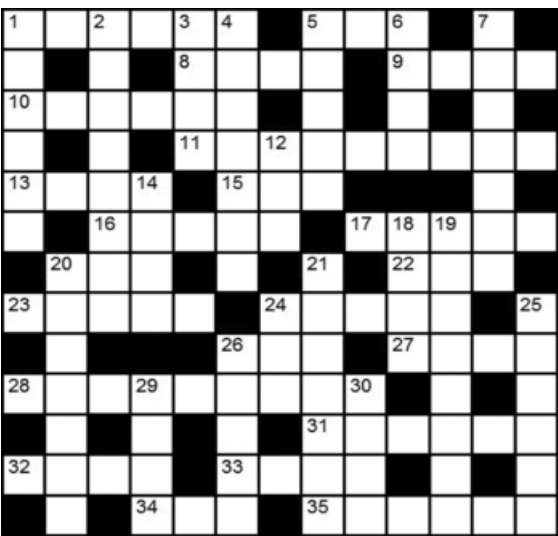
Antique temple jewellery

Classic temple jewellery is a must-have for the festive season. Traditional to the core, these stand out amongst a crowd of bling and sparkle for their rich and traditional look.

Choose from a range of jhumkas, necklaces and traditional sets.

Multi-layer necklaces

Stay on top of trends by picking a multi-layer necklaces in different colours. It not only accentuates your outfit, but works for both traditional and Western attire.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 11

CROSSWORD

Across

- Owing a favour or owing money ? (2,4)
- Jewel (3)
- In ___ of : in place of ? (4)
- A people of Japan (4)
- An angel resembling a child (6)
- Conduct (9)
- Litigated (4)
- Dress up (3)
- Ex-India cricket captain ___ of Pataudi (5)
- Gable or Kent (5)
- In short he's an official during a football or a hockey match (3)
- Employ (3)
- The distance from one side to the other (5)
- Forceps (5)
- Prefix meaning below (3)
- The Republic of Ireland (4)
- Errata (9)
- Major arteries (6)

Down

- Cut in (6)
- Became more intense (8)
- Cry noisily (4)
- That man from Lhasa ? (7)
- Russian prison camp (5)
- Not a mini ? (4)
- Ask about (7)
- Fireplace shelf (3)
- Foolish (4)
- Sled (4)
- Gave aid to (8)
- Stiffly (7)
- Docked tail (7)
- Large cask (3)
- Modernistic Danish writer (6)
- Favoured (5)
- Means of moving water (4)
- Singular fish ! (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 11

NEWS ROUNDUP

Kareena Kapoor Khan just loves wearing bindi

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan says she just loves bindis, as there is something about wearing it.

Kareena posted a picture on Instagram where she is seen dressed in a white kurta and a small round black bindi. To complete her look she left her hair open.

"There's something about wearing a bindi... just love it," she wrote alongside the image, which currently has 476K likes on the photo-sharing website.

Kareena recently completed her shoot for the upcoming film "Laal Singh Chaddha" starring Aamir Khan in Delhi. The film is an adaptation of "Forrest Gump".

On August 12, Kareena and her actor-husband Saif Ali Khan had announced that they were expecting an addition to their family.

"We are very pleased to announce that we are expecting an addition to our family!! Thank you to all our well wishers for all their love and support -- Saif and Kareena," said the announcement issued by the star couple through their office.

Saif and Kareena tied the knot on October 16, 2012. The couple has a son Taimur, who was born on December 20, 2016.



Trump not conceding an embarrassment, says Biden

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump not conceding defeat in the just-concluded election is an embarrassment, President-elect Joe Biden said on Tuesday, asserting that his transition plans have remained unaffected by this and he has started talking to world leaders. "I just think it's an embarrassment quite frankly.... It will not help the president's legacy.... I know from my discussions with foreign leaders thus far that they are hopeful that the United States' democratic institutions are viewed once again as being strong and enduring," Biden told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware.

Responding to questions from reporters on Trump not conceding the race, Biden hoped that at the end it's all going to come to fruition on January 20th. "Be-

tween now and then my hope and expectation is that the American people do know and do understand that there has been a transition.

Even among Republicans...who voted for the president, I understand the sense of loss. I get that," he said. Biden hoped that those who voted for him and those for Trump would come together. "A significantly smaller number, but a lot voted for him -- I think they understand that we have to come together. I think they're ready to unite and I believe we can pull the country out of this bitter politics that we've seen for the last five, six and seven years," he said. The President-elect said that he has already begun the transition. "We are well underway. The ability for the administration in any way by failure to recognize our win does not change the dynamic at all in what we're able to do," he said, noting that a day earlier he has announced his COVID-19 advisory board.



Smooth transition to 2nd Trump admin: Pompeo

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asserted that there will be a smooth transition to a second Trump Administration, indicating that he believes Donald Trump has won the November 3 presidential elections. "We are ready. The world is watching what's taking place here. We're going to count all the votes..." Pompeo said. Pompeo said that the world should have every confidence that the transition necessary to make sure that the State Department is functional today, successful today, and successful with the president who's in office on January 20th a minute after noon will also be successful. "I went

through a transition on the front and I've been on the other side of this. I'm very confident that we will do all the things that are necessary to make sure that the government, the United States government will continue to perform its national security function as we go forward," he said.

Responding to questions if he believed there is widespread voter fraud, Pompeo said that he has been getting calls from all across the world. "These people are watching our election. They understand that we have a legal process. They understand that this takes time, right? It took us 37 plus days in an election back in 2000. We conducted a successful transition then.

I wanted to make BJP stronger: Chirag

PATNA

LJP leader Chirag Paswan on Wednesday defended his decision of fielding candidates against the JD(U) in large numbers in the Bihar assembly polls which hugely damaged its prospects, saying he wanted Nitish Kumar's party to be "weakened" and succeeded in the endeavour.

He also declared he will not support the new government in Bihar if the NDA stuck to its promise of retaining Nitish Kumar as the chief minister despite the JD (U)'s diminished numbers in the assembly. "We never concealed our intentions. We believed the JD(U) headed by Kumar needed to be weakened and we succeeded. We wanted to make the BJP stronger and its heft has increased unquestionably," Paswan said.

Addressing a press conference here, Paswan said he was happy that the BJP had emerged "much bigger and stronger" in Bihar, and ruled out any possibility of a truck with the opposition Grand Alliance, comprising RJD, Congress and three Left parties, citing "ideological differences". He also asserted that the LJP displayed "courage" in going solo and ended up with a better vote share though it could not convert into seats. Paswan, whose party fared abysmally securing just one seat in the assembly elections, said the LJP did not wish to carry the tag of "pichhlaggu", the one who rides piggy back.



Nearly 7 lakh voters used NOTA option

A little over seven lakh voters in Bihar used the 'none of the above' or NOTA option in the assembly elections, according to the Election Commission.

Nitish Kumar-led NDA was back in power in Bihar on Wednesday with a slender majority. The ruling coalition won 125 seats in the 243-member state assembly against 110 clinched by the opposition Grand Alliance to pave the way for a fourth successive term for Kumar in office.

According to figures released by the EC, 7,06,252 people or 1.7 per cent of the voters opted for the option whereby they preferred not to vote for any candidate while exercising their democratic right.

Over 4 crore votes were polled in the three-phase elections. Out of nearly 7.3 crore voters, 57.09 per cent had cast votes in the polls.

The 'NOTA' option on electronic voting machines, introduced in 2013, has its own symbol -- a ballot paper with a black cross over it. After the Supreme Court order in September, 2013, the EC added the NOTA button on the EVMs as the last option on the voting panel.

Prior to the apex court order, those not inclined to vote for any candidate had the option of filling, what is popularly called, 'form 49-O'.



DIYA, INDIA WAITS FOR

A potter makes an earthen lamp at his home ahead of the Diwali festival, in Jammu on Wednesday

JD(U) wins Hilsa seat by just 12 votes

PATNA

The JD(U) has won the Hilsa assembly seat in Bihar just by 12 votes, a result contested by the rival RJD. According to the results updated on the Election Commission website, JD(U)'s Krishnamurari Sharan alias Prem Mukhiya has polled 61,848 votes, while his nearest Atri Muni alias Shakti Singh Yadav of the RJD has got 61,836 votes. "Results declared," the poll panel

wrote in the 'status' column for Hilsa seat late Tuesday night. And in the margin column it wrote "12". Earlier, around 10 pm, when the poll panel website showed that votes for Hilsa were still being counted, the RJD alleged foul play in the process.

"The Returning Officer had declared RJD candidate Shakti Singh from Hilsa assembly constituency as winner by 547 votes. He was told to wait for issuing the victory certificate.

But then the Returning Officer received a call from the chief minister's residence and the officer suddenly said the RJD candidate has lost by 13 votes due to postal ballots being cancelled," the party alleged in a tweet. The Election Commission has, however, denied it was under any pressure from anybody. As per the poll panel data, JD(U)'s Krishnamurari Sharan has got 232 postal votes and the RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav 233.

Bizman held for forging ASI letter to sell property

NEW DELHI

A 49-year-old businessman was arrested for allegedly forging a letter of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to sell his property located in the vicinity of a protected monument in Delhi's Panchsheel Park, police said on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as Varun Krishna Vij, a resident of Panchsheel Park, they said. Vij started a sales and marketing consultancy firm in 2012-13 but his business wasn't doing well.

He wanted to sell his property, which is located at a distance of 40.5 metres from a monument protected by the ASI in Panchsheel Park, to maintain his lavish lifestyle, the police said. He forged a no objection certificate (NOC) of the ASI to sell it, they said. Joint Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing) O P Mishra said a case was registered against Vij in 2018 on the basis of a complaint of one Ajay Chaudhary.

Conjoined twins separated in UP

LUCKNOW

Doctors at King George's Medical University have successfully separated conjoined twins after a nine-hour surgery. It was for the first time that such a surgery has been done in the KGMU.

The babies are responding well after surgery that ended early Tuesday. They have been kept under observation.

The real test would be when the babies begin to accept and digest food. "That is when we can say that the surgery has been successful in the true sense of the term," one of the doctors said. The twins were born to a couple in Kushinagar district last year in November.

The babies had two livers but they were joined. Similarly, the epicardium (outermost layer of the heart), chest and a part of the food pipe were also joined together.

The parents brought the twins to KGMU with the help of an NGO a few months ago.

The conjoined twins were first examined by the department of paediatric surgery which suggested that the separation surgery should be done after they are at least a year old.

Head of the department Prof S.N. Kureel planned a surgery to separate the twins with the help of various super-speciality depart-



ments. While Prof Kureel and J.D. Rawat of pediatrics surgery coordinated the surgery, head of gastro surgery department Prof Abhijit Chandra and his colleague Vivek Gupta worked on separation of liver and food pipe. Ambrish Kumar performed the separation of heart and chest.

The team of anesthesia department comprising head Prof G.P. Singh, Vinita Singh and Satish Verma assisted doctors in all the surgeries.

Indian vaccines don't need temperature as low as Pfizer's: AIIMS Director

NEW DELHI

Indian vaccines offer lot of hope, due to various factors including a good safety signal, display of immunogenicity and capability of using the current storage infrastructure, said AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria in an exclusive interview with IANS.

Recently, drug company Pfizer announced that its vaccine candidate for Covid-19 is more than 90 per cent effective at preventing infection. This was welcomed as a major step in the fight against the virus, which has unleashed havoc on the global economy.

Guleria added that the Indian Covid-19 vaccine has a huge advantage over the Pfizer vaccine, which is required to be kept at a much lower temperature, and hence, cold storage for other vaccines can be used for the Indian vaccine too.

Q: We have not seen any major issue with Indian vaccines at the trials stage, are you satisfied with progress made so far?

A: Indian vaccines have a lot of hope and there are two or three reasons for that, one is that their safety signal is very good and immunogenicity is also being shown, and one is now looking at the results of Phase-3 trials, which will take some time, but I am hopeful



we will have good amount of data because multi-centric studies is being done. We quickly will be able to generate some interim analysis to show in Phase-3 trials this vaccine can give good efficacy.

Q: Drug company Pfizer announced that its vaccine candidate for Covid-19 is more than 90 per cent effective at preventing infection. Are Indian vaccines on a better footing than Pfizer?

A: What Pfizer has got is something very encouraging for other vaccines researchers also, because that shows there is a potential of good immunity by the vaccines. Therefore, other vaccines should also do well. Therefore, it is a big news for all vaccine developers. We can hope for a 90 per cent efficacy. The advantage for the Indian vaccine is

that it is required to be kept at a much lower temperature. The Pfizer vaccine currently have to be kept at minus 70 degrees Celsius, therefore it will be very difficult to vaccinate people in lower- and middle-income countries. Because having a vaccine stored and transported at minus 70 degree Celsius not only needs huge investment but also needs huge planning, because most vaccines are not kept at that low temperatures.

The Indian vaccines are going to be kept at a temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius and this is available for most vaccines. As most vaccines have cold storage facility, these can be used for this vaccine also. Therefore, the investment is not much. If we were to use a vaccine which require storage at minus 70 degrees Celsius, then one would require whole new cold chain development. I do not see that happening in lot of countries.

Q: Is 90 per cent efficacy is being aimed at by Indian companies developing vaccine against Covid-19?

A: We would like to have as much efficacy as one can. The WHO says if any vaccine has more than 50 per cent efficacy, it is good enough. We would definitely like to have an efficacy of 80-90 per cent. So, let us hope that is what we are able to achieve.

Delhi Police seizes 2,793 kg firecrackers, arrests 30

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested 30 persons on charge of selling firecrackers and seized 2,793 kg firecrackers during its drive against the sale and bursting of crackers ahead of Diwali, official sources said on Wednesday.



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The political lessons from Bihar polls

Nitish should be thanking Shiv Sena for getting yet another chance to administer the State for the fourth consecutive time before he retires since the BJP has decided that it will not reenact the high drama it did in Maharashtra. The senior BJP leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi on Wednesday said that there is no question of replacing Nitish Kumar as Bihar Chief Minister. This has put to rest all speculations that BJP being the single largest party may stake claim to have its own CM.

But then politics is a dynamic situation. Though for the present the BJP

says that there is no confusion on this as some win more and some win less and all are equal partners, the big question is will BJP which had never ruled the state of Bihar remain out of power? JD (U) minus Nitish may not be able to win as many seats as it won this time.

In fact Nitish in his last election campaign speech had said 'Anth bhala toh sab bhala' (All is well that ends well). So the NDA cannot hope to have a strong partner in the next elections. Speculations are making rounds that though the BJP had strategically taken one step backward and made it clear that Nitish will be the Chief Minister,

it would after sometime may draft Nitish into the Central Cabinet, give him some important portfolio and install BJP candidate in place of Nitish.

One thing that needs to be noted in the Bihar election is that despite all odds and being branded as a party that would bring back 'Jungle Raj', RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav did give a spirited fight. Even if he could not become the Chief Minister, he has certainly emerged as the man of the match. If he succeeds in playing his cards carefully and proves that he is different from his father, there is a possibility that he can again give a tough fight to BJP and its

allies in next elections.

The BJP should understand that what it calls as stellar performance by saffron party was more because Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had campaigned for the NDA. While the opposition alliance led by Tejaswi Yadav had no such prominent face. It was in fact two stalwarts- Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was Chief Minister for Gujarat for several years and Nitish Kumar who was CM for three terms- on one side and inexperienced Tejaswi Yadav on other side.

Hence the BJP should understand that the road ahead in Bihar is not so smooth. That is why political analysts feel that Nitish may not last his full term as Chief Minister. This argument sounds logical.

PART - I

Time as a constituent of Nature

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

CHILDREN'S stories, in almost every known language, invariably begin with the equivalent of the expression 'once upon a time'..., generally referring to something that happened a long time ago and, very often, in an imaginary world.

It will be recalled that the runaway success TV serial Mahabharat began with a narration by B R Chopra beginning with the famous words "Main samay hoon" ..., at the beginning of each episode signifying the passage of time and the events that occurred along with it.

It was my father who taught me, during my college days, the difference between 'time' and 'the time'. While the first states the time of the day, the second deals with the phenomenon of time as a constituent of Nature. Time has been the subject of study in religion, philosophy and science from times immemorial (there I go again, using that word 'time' again in a different context!), in a variety of activities such as business, industry, sports and the sciences, not to mention the fine arts, measurement of time enters into the equation in some form or other.

Vedic Hindu Scriptures describe how the cosmological cycle comprises the universe going through repeated cycles of creation, destruction and rebirth. Ancient Greek philosophers such as Parmenides, Heraclitus, Plato and Aristotle also associated the concept of time

with the movement of heavenly bodies. Aristotle in fact defined time as 'movement in respect of the before and after'.

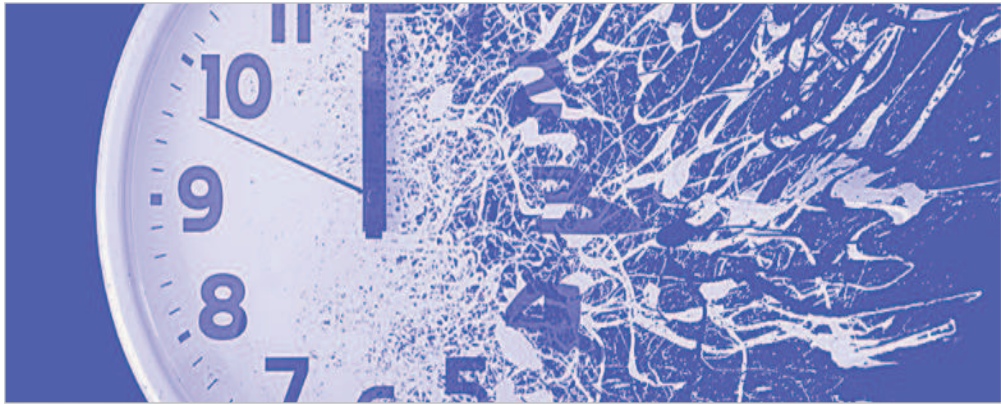
The importance of time is illustrated in many day-to-day usages such as 'time and tide wait for no man', to quote Chaucer, emphasising the inevitability of things such as birth, death and the continuing cycle of day and night etc. 'Time is money', an expression first used by Benjamin Franklin in his 18th century essay 'Advice to a Young Tradesman' in George Fisher's book 'The American Instructor or Young Man's Best Companion'. Other such expressions include 'in the fullness of time', 'at the appropriate juncture' and 'when the time is ripe'.

We had noted, in an earlier piece in this column, that all over the world, the practice exists of people identifying, and following, 'auspicious', and 'inauspicious' times for doing important things or undertaking important tasks. Here is another example of the measurement of time becoming important in day to day life.

It is also pertinent to note that most of the newspapers in the world, use the word 'times' in their names. That is clearly done to convey the message that they deal with matters that are of contemporary interest or importance.

We are all familiar with the phenomenon of 'jet lag' which we experience after travelling long distances in a short time like, for instance, in a jet plane from, say, Hyderabad to New York. One finds oneself at a different point of the day at New York, but the circadian rhythm of the body remain tuned to the time at Hyderabad. It is but natural that acclimatisation of the physiological condition to the new time zone takes time, sometimes as long as a couple of weeks.

Time, and its measurement, thus, are interwoven with our lives in many such ways. While on the subject of time zones, I



It was my father who taught me, during my college days, the difference between 'time' and 'the time'. While the first states the time of the day, the second deals with the phenomenon of time as a constituent of Nature. Time has been the subject of study in religion, philosophy and science from times immemorial (there I go again, using that word 'time' again in a different context!), in a variety of activities such as business, industry, sports and the sciences, not to mention the fine arts, measurement of time enters into the equation in some form or other

can never forget the spectacular sight the rising sun presented as one crossed Hawaii travelling from San Francisco to Singapore in a West bound flight.

Speaking about time, I have experienced a strange dimension of it. One often finds that time appears to pass very slowly, when one is relatively free from commitments and obligations. On the other hand, when one's hands are full, time appears to fly. My own experience has been that, during postings which kept me really busy, with little time to spare to engage in my extra professional interests, I strangely found my-

self able to do things like writing, reading exercising regularly, playing games or catching up on correspondence with friends and relatives.

On the other hand, paradoxically enough, it was when I was relatively free from official work, I found it difficult to get in to the mood to undertake creative pursuits like composing articles or constructing theoretical case studies for use in my classes for Civil Service aspirants. one can only put this strange phenomenon down to the quality of effort in a unit of time applying equally to all activities, professional or creative,

when one is working in different gears!"

It was in this context that my guru, Vivek Agnihotri, (whom I fondly call my 'boss'), introduced me to what he calls the concept of 'fractured time'. Periods of inactivity and hectic schedules, he advised me, occur like the fissures in a fractured bone - irregular and with crests and troughs of sharply varying length. Therefore, according to him, one should be ready with a shelf of ideas and outlines of 'thought projects' to be undertaken when one finds oneself unexpectedly free, with plenty of time on hand.

We are all familiar with the concept of the past, the present and the future. The past is behind us and fixed forever. The future, on the other hand, is an unknown commodity which can take any form. We also know that, according to the laws of physics, any process can be reversed in any direction of space but cannot proceed forward and backward in time.

The inexorable manner in which time goes in the forward direction and in the increase, therewith, the total amount of disorder in the universe is depicted in the third law of motion of Isaac Newton. And, strangely enough, life is a classic example of precisely the opposite, namely of structure and order and, therefore, has been regarded by scientists as a freak accident of nature!

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)



SANJAY SEHGAL



Why cheap is best

CLOSE to 9.1 per cent to 9.4 per cent of the world's population is expected to be pushed into extreme poverty as a fall out of the pandemic. A World Bank estimate suggests about 88 million to 115 million people will become extremely poor, living on less than \$1.50 per day, because of the pandemic which has crippled economies like never before.

Many may consider this as the death knell for innovation given the paucity of capital for R&D and a market receptive for new products. Necessity is the mother of invention, however, is an adage that has aged well. Human ingenuity has never been a hostage of circumstances. If anything it has circumvented obstacles to devise solutions.

Many would cite India's clay fridge as an example. And then there are the African ways of charging mobile phones using bicycles.

When companies invest billions of dollars in R&D and building newer products, they are quite naturally going to pass on the cost to the customer. In many developed economies that is how growth has been fuelled over the years. Parts of the developing world that did not invest in R&D bought manufactured products from other countries. When the pandemic hit the world and the traditional supply lines suddenly snapped, nations realised the need for indigenous manufacturing. The developed world, however, is still not ready to share R&D with the developing or underdeveloped nations.

In September, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report said French firm Dassault Aviation did not meet its offset obligation in the Rs 59,000 corer deal with Indian for 36 Rafael jets by offering cutting-edge technology to India's Defense Research and Development Organization. At a time India is betting big on building Atmanirbhar Bharat, frugal innovation may hold the key. Frugal innovation reduces the cost of doing much of the work, lowers cost of production and helps to increase profit margin. These steps are crucial for eradicating poverty.

Low-cost technological solutions open the doors for new opportunities to do business. With a little support from government, such as the one provided under Mudra scheme, aspiring entrepreneurs can become employers and help increase household incomes.

Chinese smart phone vendor Xiaomi grew its business by selling high-end devices at one-third of the price of Apple products. Chinese manufacturer of cars and rechargeable batteries, BYD, managed to reduce the price of lithium-ion batteries by using less costly raw materials and producing them at ambient temperatures instead of expensive heated dry rooms.

Affordable solutions from China soon became ubiquitous in India until, of course, the pandemic came knocking.

In 2002, middle class in China constituted about 4 per cent of its population. Over the next 10 years, the numbers rose to 31 per cent of the population. These were people who had been pulled out of poverty because of China's push in the manufacturing sector. A middle class person is someone who can take care of her primary needs like food, clothing and housing.

The pandemic has led to a diminishing purchasing power for people. People have lost jobs, which are coming back but rather slowly. Many have faced pay cuts and even those who have managed to escape both job losses and salary cuts remain uncertain about how the future will unfold.

The International Monetary Fund has predicted return to over 8 per cent growth for India in 2021 as the fastest-growing global economy, but a return of growth to pre-pandemic levels is unlikely before 2022. Before the pandemic too India had witnessed several quarters of jobless growth.

People who slip into poverty in this period will take a long long while to come out of it. What can hasten this coming out process if low-cost technology, which is fast to create and easy to consume. In periods like this people buy only absolute essentials. So, even big businesses will have to move towards providing frugal solution to channel India's recovery.

(The author is Chairman and CEO, MSys Group)

Changing perceptions of young Arabs

ASAD MIRZA

A recent 2019-2020 Arab Opinion survey conducted by Doha-based Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies has bought out some revealing perceptions of the Arab citizens. The survey in its seventh year collated responses from 28,288 individual respondents based on 95 questions in 13 Arab countries.

The new Arab view

Young Arabs worldview rejects any political expression of Islam, propagates a religious duty to obey the ruler with no exception, represses freedom of expression and dissent, and leaves unchallenged religious concepts such as notions of infidels and slavery that are viewed by Muslim reformers as well as significant segments of Arab youth as obsolete or outdated.

The changing youth's attitude towards religiosity is evident in various public opinion polls and also expressed in mass anti-government protests in countries like Lebanon and Iraq recently. And this young view has also impacted on the two crown princes' similar worldview.

Both rulers have initiated changes like loosening of social restrictions in Saudi Arabia, including the emasculation of the kingdom's religious police, the lifting of a ban on women's driving, less strict implementation of gender segregation, the introduction of western-style entertainment and greater professional opportunities for women, and a degree of genuine religious pluralism in the UAE, in response to youth aspirations. But they also face criticism on establishing ties with Israel.

Currently the Arab youth is sceptic of religious clerics and scholars who parrots the regimes and moves them away from religious establishments and leaders. Besides they are also disillusioned by zero efforts to recontextualise Muslim concepts that no longer apply in a modern and changing world or present them in a new paradigm.

In a commentary on the latest survey, scholar Eman Alhussein said, "Youth have...witnessed how religious figures, who still remain influential in many Arab societies, can sometimes give in to change even if they have resisted it initially. This not only feeds into Arab youth's scepticism towards religious institutions but also further highlights the inconsistency of the religious discourse and its inability to provide timely explanation or justifications to the changing reality of today".

Survey findings

The survey found that, despite 40 per cent of those polled defining religion as the most important constituent element of their identity, 66 per cent saw a need for religious institutions to be reformed. Similarly, 70 per cent of those surveyed rejected the notion that democracy was incompatible with Islam while 76 per cent viewed it as the most appropriate system of governance.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

A bitter pill for KCR

The Chief Minister of Telangana, time and again termed opposition leaders as useless lot (paniki malina daddhammalu) without vision. The recent by-poll results should serve him an eye opener. The defeat of TRS candidate in Dubbaka, a pocket borough of ruling party, proved that it's not the leaders, but the voters call the shots. It seems the electorate gradually realised that, in spite of six years at the helm of affairs, KCR's many promises yet not seen the light of the day.

The so-called bold statement viz. converting Hyderabad as 'Vishwanagaram' also proved futile with the utter damage of city roads due to recent torrential rains and floods in State. The Dubbaka results are perhaps a litmus test for TRS party, that signals an uphill task for forthcoming GHMC elections. It's also high time for opposition party leaders to tighten their belts in Telangana.

Govardhan R Jilla, Mumbai

Stinging riposte to TRS

In colliding with the giant TRS which has very strong roots, the BJP had to struggle a lot. Raghunandan Rao, despite some personal shortcomings, could withstand the combat and won with the slightest margin. Most of the poll surveys predicted that it would be a cakewalk for the impenetrable TRS, backed by KCR's charisma, notwithstanding the weak political stature of the TRS candidate Sujatha.

Though the Dubbaka rural voter masses were benefited by the Government's many welfare schemes, Harish Rao's time-tested capabilities couldn't thwart the win of BJP, it was like watching till the end, a thriller suspense movie. The tyranny of the TRS has bred contempt among the people and has been put to an end.

K Sai Prasanna, Tadevalligudem

Telangana eases up for BJP

The historic victory of Bharatiya Janata party in Dubbaka by-elections will surely pave the way for the national party's consolidation in Telangana. If the current mood of the people that BJP is the only credible alternative to the ruling TRS continues, the largely north Indian party may find a strong foothold in a second southern state after Karnataka. It is sad to see Congress being decimated in Telangana as well after Andhra Pradesh, even after granting statehood.

N.Rathan Prasad Reddy, Hanamkonda

Tejashwi Yadav, a tough competitor

NDA's victory in Bihar, albeit by a slender margin, makes it clear that there has been no erosion of its support base, at least not to the extent needed, to dislodge it from power. Even so, the good fight put up by the Mahagathbandhan denied the "double engine sarkar" a runaway victory. With far fewer JD (U) MLAs, Nitish Kumar - one of India's great political survivors - will now find himself diminished in stature and under compulsion to play second fiddle to the BJP. However, the BJP may play it safe and not dictate terms for fear that he may cross over to the Mahagathbandhan. Perhaps NDA's return to power despite disillusionment with the government can be plausibly explained in terms of the overarching appeal Hindutva still holds for the masses. The NDA would not have been able to beat anti-incumbency if unacceptably high levels of unemployment, the miseries of unemployment and the plight of uncared-for migrant workers had decisively influenced voter preference. By no means can the verdict be counted or claimed as a positive vote for its performance vis-a-vis the impoverished people or its handling of the migrant crisis during the lockdown. True to form, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did his campaign blitzkrieg adopting his usual "more-patriotic-and-more-pious-than-thou" posture. He touched on Ayodhya, Article: 370, Balakot airstrike and chanted "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Jai Shri Ram" to play on (and tap) nationalist and religious sentiments to NDA's advantage. Post-election, he hailed the result, a boost to him, as a vote for 'de-

velopment'. The Modi factor cannot be looked at in isolation from Hindu revivalism. Surely we are still to go some way before we become a truly secular nation that has put politics of polarization behind. It is clear from the vote and seat shares that caste too was a major factor in the Bihar election. To escape the "MY" tag, Tejashwi Yadav described his resurgent RJD as an "A to Z" party. The arithmetically sound "social coalition" engineered by BJP and JD (U) was electorally rewarding for them. By and large, voters are still to transcend caste identity and vote on the basis of the bread-and-butter issues of politics. Tejashwi Yadav led the high voltage campaign single handed, made a splash and emerged as a leader in his own right. He is now assured of a prominent role in Bihar politics. Nitish Kumar made an emotional pitch saying it was his "last election"; he is now all set to become the Chief Minister for the record fourth time; he should do more than maintain the status quo.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Pack up time for GOP?

The message of the Bihar poll verdict is another validation of the Congress becoming a liability of its allies in assembly elections. The party managed to secure 70 seats from Tejashwi Yadav but ended up dragging down the opposition's tally. The Congress was winning only 19 of these 70 seats in Bihar. The Congress has been a drag on its alliance partner in many other states in the past - for the Samajwadi Party (SP) in UP in 2017, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand in 2019, to cite a few instances. The final poll outcome may not reflect the sharpness of his well-crafted electoral strategy but his valiant show has certainly indicated his arrival on Bihar's political centre-stage. To wrap up the week-end there were surprises, the ouster of Donald Trump from the White House and the last election triumph of Nitish Kumar all came in a flash in the pan.

C K Subramaniam, Navi Mumbai

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Tuberculosis management takes a hit due to Covid-19

V PRADEEP KUMAR
TIRUPATI

THE impact of Covid-19 pandemic on tuberculosis (TB) care has been alarming with many cases remaining undiagnosed. Even when they are diagnosed, they are not treated or appropriately notified which is evident from the fact that only 50 per cent targets have been achieved this year in the country. The situation in Andhra Pradesh also is no different with about 52.52 per cent of the targets achieved.

This was due to the diversion of most of the public health resources, including men and machinery to fight the epidemic were diverted to Covid services and almost stoppage of non-Covid services in both public and private hospitals.

The surveillance and reporting of TB cases were almost stopped since the imposition of lockdown in the country and from April 1, gradually the TrueNat machines used to screen the TB patients have been allocated to Covid screening. Even after the decline of positive cases during the last one month, these machines were not sent back for TB control purposes again in several districts.

According to the TB notification (Nikshay reports), against a target of 29.99 lakh cases, only 14.92 lakh cases were notified both in public and private hospitals in the country during January 1 to November 10, 2020. During



- Country could achieve only 50% of targets this year
- Similar situation prevails in AP with only three districts achieving more than 60% targets
- Diversion of resources to tackle Covid apart from a halt to non-Covid care during the pandemic is a major factor
- All TB patients are now screened for Covid and Covid patients having cough on their discharge for TB in the state

January to December last year, 84 per cent of the target was achieved with 24.03 lakh cases reported against the target of 28.72 lakh cases.

In Andhra Pradesh, 51,995 TB cases were notified during January 1 to November 10, this year against the target of 99,004 cases. The data reveals that there was a drop of TB cases by around 50 per cent in 2020 compared to the previous year. In AP, Visakhapatnam (71 per cent), Chittoor (66 per cent) and Kurnool (60 per cent) have only achieved above 60 per cent notification with Krishna (43 per cent) and Srikakulam (36 per cent) reported least achievement.

Speaking to The Hans India, Chittoor district TB

control officer Dr B Ramesh Babu said that the situation was gradually improving. They have been taking back the TrueNat machines from Covid testing to TB screening now. Drop in the number of TB cases was because of the shortage of staff as most of them were allocated the covid duties. Due to this, they could not conduct door to door screenings.

As the symptoms of cough and fever are common to both TB and Covid-19, the government has directed the officials to screen all TB patients for Covid and Covid patients having cough at the time of discharge for TB. This process is now undergoing, he said.

Committed to welfare of Minorities, asserts AP CM

- Paying tributes to Moulana Abul Kalam Azad whose birth anniversary is celebrated as National Education Day, CM says their govt has spent ₹3,428 cr till Oct this year on minority welfare
- States that allowance for Haj and Holy Land pilgrims has been increased and students of 900 madrasas will get Goru Mudda and other schemes
- Describing suicide of a Muslim family in Nandyal, alleges TDP role behind the accused getting bail

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

PAYING glowing tributes to Moulana Abul Kalam Azad on his birth anniversary, which is also observed as National Education Day and Minorities' Day, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday reiterated that his government was committed to the welfare of Minorities and weaker sections.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said Azad was an academician, scholar, educationist who brought reforms to suit our country from primary to university level. "His inspiration reflects in the welfare schemes we have been implementing keeping the future of children in view, more so for the weaker sections SC, ST, BC and Minorities who attend government schools," he said adding that the government had taken up Nadu Nedu to revamp schools and provide amenities like clean drinking water, furniture, mid day meals and a clean hygienic ambience. "The golden era of welfare



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy paying tributes to Abul Kalam Azad on the occasion of his birth anniversary at his camp office on Wednesday

has come back, after YS Rajasekhara Reddy's term, and we are maintaining brotherhood among all religions and implementing various welfare schemes like Amma Vodi, Rythu Bharosa, Cheyutha, Zero interest, Pension Kanuka, Vidya Devena, Vasati Devena, Vahana Mitra, Law Nestam, Nethanna Nestham, Chedoldu, Asara and the amount is being transferred to the beneficiaries account directly. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and saturation mode has brought in transparency. After our government came to power, the total amount spent on Minority welfare till October 2020 is Rs 3428 crore, of which Rs 2,585 is DBT and Rs 843 crore is through various welfare schemes," the Chief Minister explained.

He alleged that the previous government lacked sincerity and spent Rs 2,661 crore during its five year term but the current government spend Rs 3,428

cores in just 17 months which shows the difference. TDP had no minority member in its Cabinet until the fag end of its term. We have given tickets to four Muslims who won the elections and are MLAs and even we have inducted a Minority woman as MLC, he said.

The Chief Minister said the government increased the allowance for pilgrims going to Haj and Holy Land. Students studying in the 900 madrasas will be getting Goru Mudda and other schemes will be applicable for Madrasas imparting modern education.

He said Wakf lands were being digitised and action was being taken against encroachments. He also assured that the property of Christian missionaries will also be protected. The honorarium of imams and moulazims will be hiked and honorarium will be paid to pastors along with YSR Pelli Kanuka from next year, he said.

Terming the Nandyal incident as unfortunate, where a family belonging to the Minorities committed suicide, the Chief Minister said that strict action was initiated against the perpetrators. Taking a dig at Opposition TDP, he said, but some people have applied for bail and brought the remanded people out. We have moved court to cancel the bail, he said.

"A close associate of opposition TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu took the role of a lawyer and filed a bail petition. Now, we are going to a Sessions Court to cancel the bail and seeking a thorough investigation on the issue," he said adding that the opposition's influence seems to be surpassing the government's.

Deputy Chief Minister Amrath Basha, minister M Sucharitha, K Kannababu, Kodalani Nani, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, officials of minority welfare department were also present at the event.

Mekapati releases Netanna Nestam second instalment

- Rs 21.37 cr is transferred into the accounts of 8,903 eligible beneficiaries
- Terming the assistance to handloom weavers 'unprecedented', the Minister hopes weavers will modernise the handlooms and better their skills to produce more quality cloth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

AN amount of Rs 21.37 crore was released under Netanna Nestam to the eligible handloom weavers throughout the state on Wednesday, industries minister Mekapati Gautam Reddy said after releasing the amount directly to the accounts of 8,903 weavers.

AP Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development conducted concurrent social audit of all 15,221 beneficiaries and finalised 8,903 as eligible and consequently on Wednesday Rs 21.37 crore was released to the eligible weaver beneficiaries under YSR Nethanna Nestham scheme.

It may be recalled that the assistant directors (handloom and



Industries Minister M Gautam Reddy releasing the Nethanna Hashtam amount to beneficiaries into their accounts in Amaravati on Wednesday

textiles) obtained approval of 81,024 weaver beneficiaries who were found eligible by village secretariats for the year 2020-21 and uploaded by them in Navasakam portal by district level committees (DLC) headed by the district collectors. The government then released Rs 194.46 crore for the year 2020-21.

After releasing the amount, the minister said that this kind of assistance to the handloom weavers were unprecedented. He hoped that this would the weavers to modernise the handlooms and improve their skills to produce more quality cloth.

The minister said that the state

government signed memorandum of understanding with e-commerce websites like Flipkart and Amazon and the handloom material is available online now.

The minister assured the handloom weavers that the government would strive to get certification, branding and marketing for the handloom products. He pointed out that already 104 products including sarees, dress material, shirts, dhotis of Uppada, Dharmavaram, Venkatagiri were brought online. He appealed to the youth to take responsibility of using the products to make it look fashionable in the larger interest of the handloom weavers.

'Jagan govt subverted Abul Kalam's ideals'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Indian freedom fighter Moulana Abul Kalam Azad on the occasion of his birth anniversary celebrations all over the country.

Naidu recalled how Abul Kalam along with all other makers of the Indian Constitution dreamt of making laws for ensuring that there would be no discrimination against or suppression of Minorities in the country. But, everything was going contrary to their ideals in Andhra Pradesh. Attacks on the Minorities, false arrests, false cases, illegal detentions, suicides, molestations, atrocities and village evictions were taking place in the state, he said.

In a statement here, the TDP chief called upon everyone to shed the narrow differences and work for achieving the ideals of equality and fraternity for which Abul Kalam and other freedom fighters stood for.

Everybody should rededicate themselves to the cause of protection of the Minorities' rights. Azad's dream was to ensure a life with peace, security and prosperity to all sections of the people, he added. Naidu said that as the country's first education minister, Abul Kalam, made outstanding contributions in the field of literature and education. He also took an active part in the making of the Constitution. At the time of the independence movement itself, Maulana opposed fundamentalism and advocated the significance of secularism in the country, Naidu said. It may be recalled that in recognition of Abul Kalam's services to the education sector, India has been celebrating his birth anniversary as the National Education Day every year.

SVBC employee terminated for forwarding porn site link to devotee

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

SRI Venkateswara Bhakti Channel management (TTD) has terminated one of its employees on Wednesday after his alleged involvement in forwarding a porn site link to a devotee.

According to SVBC CEO, the terminated employee was discharging duty as an office sub-ordinate (OSO-attender).

Following a query by a devotee Venkata Krishna who sought details regarding 'Sattamanam Bhavati', a popular programme in SVBC, he received a porn site link as a reply from the said employee through sb@svbcttd.org. The devotee brought the same to the notice of both Chairman and EO of TTD for immediate action.

TTD Chairman Y V Subba Reddy and EO

Dr KS Jawahar Reddy immediately directed for a detailed enquiry.

A team consisting of 25 software engineers carried out Computer Security Audit in SVBC and a Cyber Cell team has been constituted following the complaint.

During the vigilance enquiry it was found that a few more employees are also involved in such willful, indecent conduct. If proved guilty, action will be initiated on those employees too, said a senior TTD official.

Meanwhile, the SVBC attendant was terminated with immediate effect after he was proved guilty of forwarding the porn site link to the devotee.

To protect and safeguard the reputation of SVBC, many important decisions have been taken by the management in the aftermath of the incident of employee linking porn site to the devotee.

OTT operators brought under govt purview now

Continued from P1

However, the government had refused to support this code. In their plea in the Supreme Court, advocates Shashank Shekhar Jha and Apurva Arhatia sought a proper board/institution/association for the monitoring and management of content on different OTT and Streaming and digital media platforms.

The ministry had earlier told the top court in a separate case that there is a need to regulate digital media and that the court may first appoint a committee of persons as amicus before laying down guidelines with respect to the regulation of hate speech in media. At present, the Press Council of India regulates the print media, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) represents the news channels, the Advertising Standards Council of India regulates advertising, while the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) monitors films.

HC CHIDES AAP GOVT OVER COVID RELAXATIONS

Continued from P1

The bench asked the Additional Standing Counsel Satkam, appearing for the Delhi government, to present a status report and explain the steps it has taken in the last two weeks in view of the rising data on the corona epidemic. In the past, the Delhi High Court has issued several instructions on the petition of Rakesh Malhotra.

India, China agree on 3-step plan for disengagement

Continued from P1

As per the disengagement plan which is to be carried out in three steps in one week from the talks in the Pangong lake area, the armoured vehicles including tanks and armoured personnel carriers were to be moved back from their front-line deployment to a significant distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by both sides. As per the discussions, the disengagement of tanks and armoured personnel carriers was to be carried out within one day. The talks were held on November 6 in which external affairs ministry's Joint Secretary Naveen Shrivastava

and Brigadier Ghai of Directorate General of Military Operations had taken part.

In the second step to be carried out near the northern bank on the Pangong Lake, both sides were supposed to withdraw around 30 per cent of troops every day for three days. The Indian side would be coming close to its administrative Dhan Singh Thapa post while the Chinese had consented to go back to their position east of Finger 8.

In the third and last step, the two sides were to withdraw from their respective positions from the frontline along the southern bank of Pangong

Lake area which includes the heights and territories around Chushul and Rezang La area.

The two sides had also agreed for a joint mechanism to verify the progress in the disengagement process through delegation meetings as well as using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

The Indian side is moving very carefully on the issue as there is a lot of trust deficit with China after the Galwan valley clash in June this year in which 20 Indian soldiers had lost their lives and many Chinese army soldiers, including their Commanding Officer, were killed by the Indian troops.

Only green crackers during Deepavali in AP

AMARAVATI

IN line with the NGT order and in view of the Covid pandemic, the Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday said only 'green crackers' will be sold and people can burst crackers only for two hours from 8 pm on Deepavali day (November 14).

The restrictions are to safeguard the health of people who had recovered from the infection and those currently undergoing treatment.

State chief secretary Nilam Sawhney issued an order on Wednesday in line with the November 5 order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that sought "remedial action against air pollution due to use of fire crackers, aggravating the menace of Covid-19 and posing higher danger to the lives and health of the vulnerable groups."

Sawhney said the AP Pollution Control Board has been monitoring ambient air quality in 20 cities and

- Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney issues a GO to this effect in accordance with the NGTs order
- Says the State Pollution Control Board has been monitoring ambient air quality in 20 cities and towns in the State
- Health officials say 8.20 lakh people have recovered from Covid and there are around 20,000 active cases in the state who might be affected by the gases from crackers



towns in the state. According to the commissioner for health and family welfare Katamaneni Bhaskar, about 8.20 lakh people had recovered from the coronavirus infection while there were about 20,000 active cases in the state.

"The lung capacity of these persons might be at risk (due to the chemical gases emanating from the crackers)," the commissioner noted. He requested the government to issue necessary instructions to restrict the use of fire crackers "in the inter-

est of the Covid-19 patients (recovered and active) and also in the interest of public health at large."

Accordingly, the chief secretary issued an order stating that only green crackers should be sold in the state and the bursting of crackers should be restricted to two hours from 8 pm on Deepavali day.

Mandatory Covid-19 containment measures like physical distancing should be maintained at the shops selling crackers and each shop should be set up 10 feet apart, the chief secretary said.

Sawhney advised people not to use hand sanitisers during Deepavali celebrations and instead use normal soap and water.

The chief secretary directed the district collectors, superintendents of police and city commissioners to implement the NGT orders.

Several states, including Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi, have already decided to ban fire crackers.

TS ready to roll out red carpet for South Korean investors: KTR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

INFORMATION Technology Minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday said that Telangana was keen on attracting large-scale investment from South Korean companies and was prepared to set up an exclusive cluster for them. He also said that full assistance to the interested companies would be provided and also clarified that a number of multinational companies have invested heavily in the State, taking advantage of its extremely popular industrial policy.

At a virtual conference organised by the India Korea Business Forum, the Minister gave an overview of Telangana's progressive industrial policy and described it as the best in the world. "The State has a marquee industrial strategy, TS-iPASS, which has gained international reputation and has drawn more than

Informers that a number of multinational companies have invested heavily in the State, taking advantage of Telangana's extremely popular industrial policy

USD 30 billion in investment to the State over the last six years," he said.

"Several multinational companies, including the South Korean textile major Youngone, have advanced to invest in the State, while the State government has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gwangju Medical Devices Park in South Korea to share expertise with them. Likewise, automotive major Hyundai is also expanding its activities in the province. We are ready to roll out the red carpet for South Korean investors," he said.

The Minister clarified that if they were keen on setting up their businesses, the State gov-



ernment was prepared to set up an exclusive cluster for South Korean companies. The establishment of such an exclusive industrial cluster for Korean companies would allow the authorities to provide them with all the necessary facilities, he said,

and urged the Ambassadors of India and South Korea to extend their support to the State in this regard by facilitating visits to the State of Telangana by South Korean investors. Rama Rao further clarified that not only did the State has a steady leadership, but that it was also rich in terms of both raw materials and human capital. Although industries do not need to worry about water, electricity and other resources, he said, the State government was also prepared to assist in re-cruiting skilled workers by providing them with the requisite training in the required field.

Principal Secretary for IT and Industries Jayesh Ranjan was also present.

Planning Board VC seeks MEA help in upticking tourist footfall in TS

Meets IFS officer C Rajashekhar in Delhi and discusses the avenues and scope of improving and promoting tourism in Telangana

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman B Vinod Kumar on Wednesday urged the Indian Foreign Service officer C Rajashekhar, who is in the Ministry of External Affairs, for help in increasing the international tourist footfalls in Telangana, which would help promote entrepreneurship in the State.

The Planning Board VC had a meeting with the IFS officer during his visit to Delhi. Rajashekhar, who hails from Telangana, and discussed the avenues and scope of improving ties and promoting tourism. He explained that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed the Ministry of External Affairs to work with different States so as to ensure better coordination and growth and relationships of States with other countries. He further pointed out that this was a novel initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs that is aimed at working synergistically with different States to build effective relationships.

Vinod Kumar highlighted the achievements after the formation of Telangana in 2014 under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in areas of water, irrigation, power, law and order, ease of doing business (EODB) and facilitation and quicker disposal through establishing Commercial



Courts to reduce pendency of business litigations. He also stressed the need to tap the huge tourism potential of the State, keeping in view the great heritage sites, flora and fauna and attractive locales. It was also proposed in the meeting that foreign tourist footfalls can substantially be increased which will lead to improving employability and entrepreneurship in Telangana.

Rajashekhar assured the VC that a joint high-level meeting of the Ministry of External Affairs and Telangana could be planned this year in Hyderabad to develop

an action plan to facilitate better interaction and interface with the Ministry of External Affairs. Vinod Kumar also congratulated the officer for his keen interest to work with the States and hoped that many investments possibilities and potentials would emerge from these interactions.

BJP eyes Mayor, Dy Mayor posts, 100 GHMC divisions

State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar says the party is making united efforts by chalking out clear agenda to defeat the anti-people government and undemocratic rule of TRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar reminded that BJP had predicted that the saffron party will win the mayor, deputy mayor and about 100 seats in the ensuing GHMC elections.

Addressing the media, along with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy on Wednesday, he asked Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to consider the circumstances in which people have to give a verdict in favour of BJP in Dubbaka.

He asked the TRS chief to adopt democratic ways and take into consideration the problems faced by different sections of people in the State.

Criticising the State government adopting discriminatory policies among residents of Hyderabad, he demanded to reveal the collection of taxes including house tax, water tax, power bills, etc., that is being collected from the old city and other parts of

- Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao urged to consider the circumstances in which people have given a verdict in favour of BJP in Dubbaka
- Criticises State government for adopting discriminatory policies
- Demands revelation of taxes collected from old city and other parts of GHMC
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kishan Reddy criticises State government for failing to send a comprehensive report on crop loss

GHMC.

The State BJP chief alleged that the State government has miserably failed to provide relief to the private employees and teachers who faced problems due to Covid. The TRS government handpicked a few leaders from the TNGOs and teachers' organisations and are trying to remote control them, he alleged and demanded immediate measures to address the woes of the people including the farmers who have cultivated fine rice on the advice of the State government.

The Karimnagar MP also demanded that the State Election Commission should not only receive objections but also address and act upon the same.

He said that the BJP is making united efforts chalking out clear agenda to defeat the anti-people and undemocratic rule of TRS.

Kishan Reddy reiterated the Centre's commitment to the development of Telangana. He also criticised the State government for failing to send a comprehensive report on crop loss during the recent unseasonal rains. "De-



spite repeated reminders, the State has not sent its report. But, the TRS leaders are propagating lies against the Centre," he added.

He also asked the ruling party if the financial assistance of Rs 10,000 announced for the flood victims in the city was meant for people or for the TRS leaders?

Bandi Sanjay and Kishan Reddy criticised the State government resorting to gross misuse of power during the Dub-



baka by-poll and said, "Even today, several innocent BJP activists and BJP district Mahila Morcha president is in the jail."

He said that the TRS has been harassing, blackmailing leaders and cadre of other parties. The party engineered of MLAs from other parties warning that it would not develop their constituencies unless they cross over to the TRS. It has no moral right to accuse the BJP, he added.

BJP Dubbaka MLA on thanksgiving visit to Tirumala



BJP leader and Dubbaka MLA M Raghunandan Rao coming out of the temple after offering prayers to Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/ TIRUPATI

THE MLA-elect of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Dubbaka Assembly constituency Raghunandan Rao flew in to the temple town of Tirumala immediately after his victory and offered special prayers before the presiding deity of Venkateswara Swami.

He landed at the Renigunta airport of the temple town Wednesday morning where he was accorded a warm welcome by local BJP leaders.

After the darshan of the

presiding deity at 11 am today under the special darshan ticket while speaking on the occasion, Rao said that the victory of the BJP in Dubbaka should be an eye opener for the Chief Ministers of the two Telugu speaking States. He alleged that the two CMs were implementing several anti-people policies and ruling their States in a unilateral manner.

Rao said that the election result in Dubbaka was a sign that the residents of Dubbaka had laid foundation for a good beginning by ensuring the victory of the BJP in their constituency.

Man under rehabilitation detained over burglaries

NALGONDA

AN ex-prisoner who had been working in food court run by district jail under rehabilitation, was detained by the local town-1 police for committing burglaries in different parts of Nalgonda district and seized Rs 17 lakh worth 32 tulas gold and 55 tulas of silver ornaments from his possession. The accused was identified as Vangala Saidulu (27), native of the old city in Nalgonda town. Briefing the criminal history of Saidulu, one town CI Suresh stated that they took Saidulu in police custody on suspicion after a series of burglaries took place in Nalgonda-1 town PS limits. The accused confessed the crimes that took place in Nalgonda 1- town and other places including Munugodu, Nakrekal, Chandampeta and Shaligowaram PS limits in the district.

DIWALI AROUND THE CORNER; NO SALARY YET FOR RTC STAFF

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) are a worried lot as the management is yet to pay the salaries of October month even only two days left for Diwali celebrations.

According to the union leaders, the TSRTC management has been delaying the payment of salaries to employees every month and the salaries are yet to be credited by the management for the month of October. According to an RTC employee, the management credited the September's salary on October 10 and the August month salary on September 9.

"Every month there is a delay in payment of salary. Many employees like me are having EMIs and with delay in the

The management of the State-run transport corporation is yet to credit October month's salaries



crediting the salary, some of them are skipping the monthly instalments and some are borrowing money from others," said M Suresh (name changed). He further said that they got to know that they won't be getting salary even on 12th of this

month.

The RTC employees used to get the festival advance during major festivals like Dasara and Diwali, but there is no such facility now. "Earlier, we used to get festival advance before the festival and this money was re-

covered by deducting Rs 150 every month. Now there is no talk of festival advance," said another employee, questioning when the salary itself was not credited, who would ask for festival advance? The union leaders have criticised the management for delaying the salary. Telangana Mazdoor Union leader E Ashwadhama Reddy said that it was unfortunate that the employees were not getting salaries even after 10th of every month. At a time when the employees were performing duties, they were made to worry about their salaries. He demanded the management to pay salaries. Another TMU leader BV Reddy pointed out that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh has given bonus to its employees, but the employees were not even getting salaries in Bangaru Telangana.

Martyred jawan laid to rest

Minister Prashanth Reddy announces Rs 50 lakh ex gratiato Rada Maheshwar family, job on compassionate grounds and house sight

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VELPUR (NIZAMABAD)

RADA Maheshwar, the martyred soldier, was laid to rest on Wednesday at Komanpalli village of Velpur mandal in the district. R&B Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy, who attended the funeral, announced that the TRS government would give government job to the family member on compassionate grounds and ex gratia of Rs 50 lakh to the deceased family. Army jawan Rada Mahesh was killed in an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir. The body was brought to his

native village Komanpalli on Tuesday night.

R&B Minister V Prashanth Reddy, District Collector C Narayana Reddy and Police Commissioner Karthikeya paid tributes. Amid large number of people, fans and relatives, Maheshwar's funeral was completed with military and government protocol.

Zilla Parishad Chairman Vittal Rao, MP Dharmapuri Arvind, RDO Srinivas, public representatives, officials, military welfare officers and people in large numbers attended the funeral.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE High Court bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bolam Vijaysen Reddy on Wednesday heard a plea filed by Shinde Devidas from Nirmal district, who alleged that the Government Order No 112/12-10-2020 issued by the State government in respect of regularising the unregistered sale transactions under Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Act, 1971 as illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional. Further, the petitioner de-

Makes it clear that the State government cannot process 6,74,201 applications that were received after 29-10-2020 for regularisation till further orders

LEGAL NOTES



manded to declare the proceedings, if any, issued by Tahsildars in the State regularising the unregistered sale transactions in pursuance to GO Ms No.112/12-10-2020 as null and void.

Advocate General Banda Shiv-ananda Prasad informed the court that under earlier GO dated 12-10-2020, the applications received were 2,26,293 and after 29-10-2020, the government was

pleased to extend the time to 10-11-2020 and about 6,74,201 applications were received taking the total number of applications to 9,00,494.

Chief Justice RS Chauhan sought to know how the State government would deal with 6,74,201 applications when the law no longer exists as of 29-10-2020. Since the State government extending the time and receiving 6,74,201 applications, it devours the law. The government can deal with 2,26,293 lakh applications as the law exists then, but it can't deal with 6,74,201 applications that were received when the law

no longer exists, the CJ noted.

"It will not only open up a Pandora Box, rather it will open up a Pandora Valley. You cannot be permitted to process the 6,74,201 applications which are received after 29-10-2020. This court has been keeping on emphasising that it is not the policy of the government which matters, but the policy has to be in compliance with the law," the CJ said.

Advocate General Banda Shiv-ananda Prasad sought two weeks' time to file the counter justifying government's action, for which the court has posted the matter after two weeks.

State releases ₹2.5 cr for Tungabhadra Pushkaralu

HYDERABAD

THE State government on Wednesday released Rs 2.5 crore for the celebrations of Tungabhadra Pushkaralu-2020 under special development fund for welfare and development activities for the year 2020-21. A GO was released on Wednesday releasing the funds to the Commissioner of Endowments. The Tungabhadra Pushkaralu will be starting from November 20. The Tungabhadra



River passes through Alampur in the Jogulamba Gadwal district. Pushkar Ghats are arranged at the banks of the river near the Jogulamba temple.

‘Bravo, you’re behind now’, says Pollard after MI corners glory

DUBAI

WEST Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has now become the player with most T20 titles following Mumbai Indians’ win in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020. On Tuesday evening, the Rohit Sharma-led side won their fifth IPL trophy as they defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the summit clash.

“Dwayne Bravo you are behind me now (about number of T20 titles), I have to say that on camera,” Pollard said after the match.

Pollard now has 15 T20 titles, five of which has come for him while playing for the Mumbai-based franchise. Bravo, on the other hand, has 14.

The big-hitting West Indies all-rounder has scored over 3,000 runs for Mumbai Indians. In 2020 season, Pollard scored 268 runs at a strike rate of 191.42, the most by any batsman this year. Pollard also said that the title win meant a lot to him and also termed Mumbai Indians as the best T20 team in the world at the moment.

“It’s a great feeling, means a lot. Fifth trophy...Have been here for 11 years. We have a quiet celebration. The amount of trophies, the amount of talent that’s there, you can say MI is the best T20 team going around,” he said.

Apart from Mumbai Indians, no other franchise has won so many titles in IPL’s 13-year history; the second most successful team is Chennai Super Kings, who have won the title three times.



India’s loss if Rohit isn’t made white-ball captain: Gambhir

DUBAI

FORMER cricketer Gautam

Gambhir believes it will be “shame” and Indian cricket’s “loss” if star opener Rohit Sharma isn’t considered for the full-time white-ball captaincy going forward.

“If Rohit Sharma doesn’t become India’s captain, it’s their loss, not Rohit’s,” Gambhir was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. “Yes, a captain is only as good as his team and I completely agree with that, but what are the parameters to judge a captain on who is good and who isn’t? The parameters and benchmark should be the same. Rohit has led his team to five IPL titles,” he added.

The cricketer-turned-politician had earlier said that Royal Challengers Bangalore, who made exit from IPL 2020 in the play-offs, should remove Virat Kohli

as skipper and appoint someone else.

“We keep saying MS Dhoni is India’s most successful captain. Why? Because he has won two World Cups and three IPLs,” Gambhir said.

Going forward, it’ll be a shame if he doesn’t get India’s white-ball or just T20 captaincy because he can’t do much more than this. He can only help the team he captains to victories. So if he doesn’t become India’s regular white-ball captain, it will be their loss,” he added.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan also said that Rohit is a fantastic man-manager and leader and should lead India in T20Is.

Meanwhile, Gambhir’s former Team India teammate Virender Sehwag termed Mumbai Indians as the “best T20 franchise” in the world.

Great feat: Iyer

DUBAI

DELHI Capitals (DC) captain Shreyas Iyer said that while winning the Indian Premier League (IPL) title would have been a step up for them, reaching the final for the first time in the tournament history is a great achievement.

“It’s been a great journey. I’m very proud of my boys. It’s not a small feat to reach the final. It was a great achievement. Winning the IPL is something more -- one step ahead. We’ll come back stronger and see to it that we win the trophy,” said Iyer in the post-match presentation ceremony. “I would just like to tell fans that you’ve been great support through the season.”

Iyer reiterated that head coach Ricky Ponting was the best he has worked with. “I’ve mentioned it heaps of times, Ricky is probably the best I’ve worked with.

‘Ishan a very special player in the making’

DUBAI

ONE of the shining stars for Mumbai Indians in their successful Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 campaign was Ishan Kishan.

Kishan scored 516 runs in 14 matches for the reigning champions this edition: a season which saw them win their fifth IPL title following a five-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in the final on Tuesday evening. In the summit clash, the left-handed batsman remained not out on 33 as his team chased down the target of 157 with eight balls to spare.

“I wasn’t looking in good shape at the start of this season, so I had a good chat with Hardik (Pandya) bhai and Krunal (Pandya) bhai, I wanted to work on my fitness, just keep working on my off-side game. I wanted to do what was good for the team with the bat and score big runs,” said Kishan after the match while talking about his IPL 2020 campaign which has



earned him praises from all quarters.

Kishan’s run in the season came at an impressive strike rate of 145.76 and an average of 57.33. He smashed 30 sixes, the most by a batsman this year.

Following his heroics, former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh tweeted: “Congratulations Mumbai Indians by far the best team

in the IPL. Rohit Sharma captains knock in the final! Heart goes out for Delhi Capitals who had an outstanding tournament! Ishan Kishan special very special player in the making. (sic).

The 22-year-old has so far played 51 matches in total for the Mumbai Indians, scoring 1,211 runs, including seven fifties - four of which came this season.

WI players breach isolation protocols

CHRISTCHURCH

THE West Indies men’s cricket team, currently in New Zealand, have been denied training privileges after some of the members “contravened protocols within the managed isolation facility”.

According to New Zealand Cricket, found some players of the West Indies team were found compromising the bubble integrity by mixing between two separate West Indies bubbles into which the touring party had been split, by sharing food and socialising in hallways.

As a result, all members of the West Indies touring party will now be unable to train for the remainder of the quarantine period and will have to complete their quarantine within the facility which ends on Friday.



Sachin, Lara best I’ve played against: Warne

NEW DELHI

FORMER Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne has heaped praise Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara, saying the duo were the ‘best two batsmen’ he played with or against during his illustrious career.

“These two guys were clearly and easily the best two batsmen I played with or against and the best of my generation too (1989-2013) Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara. Did you like watching the three of us play and do battle out on the field?” wrote Warne along with the picture which he posted on his Instagram account on Tuesday.

Tendulkar made his debut against Pakistan in Karachi in

1989 as a 16-year-old. He went on to play 200 Tests for India, scoring 100 centuries across Tests and ODIs. In 463 ODIs, Tendulkar scored 18,426 runs including 49 tons and in Tests, he has 15,921 runs to his name, including 51 centuries.

Lara, on the other hand, remains the only batsman in world cricket to score 400 runs in an innings in Test cricket. The left-handed batsman played 131 Tests and 299 ODIs for West Indies, scoring 11,953 and 10,405 runs respectively. Warne, one of the greatest spinners of all time, scalped 708 wickets in 145 Tests for Australia. In 194 ODIs, he picked 293 wickets.

Table toppers win trophy: Four such instances in IPL



DUBAI

THE 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) was the fourth instance when a team finishing at the top of the points table after the league stage emerged as eventual champions. The cash-rich T20 league, which saw its inception in 2008, found its first champion in Rajasthan Royals who had defeated Chennai Super Kings in the summit clash. The Shane Warne-led side had topped the table at the end of league stage with 22 points from 14 games. Then in 2017, Mumbai Indians topped the table at the end of the group stage with 20 points from 14 games. They went on to win their third IPL title defeating Rising Pune Super-

giant in the final. The Rohit Sharma-led side again occupied the number one position in 2019 IPL before the start of the play-offs with 18 points from 14 matches. They defeated Chennai Super Kings in the final to become the most successful franchise in the history of the league.

In this year’s edition which was played in the United Arab Emirates amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mumbai-based franchise again topped the charts at the end of the league stage with 18 points and went on to defeat the Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final to lay their hands on the coveted trophy for the fifth time.

Football Assn chief resigns

LONDON

FOOTBALL Association chairman Greg Clarke has stepped down from the post after using “unacceptable words” for referring to black players. Clarke, in a statement, said he was “deeply saddened” for the offence he had caused by using the term “coloured footballers”. The comments came when he was talking about the racist abuse of players by trolls on social media to the Department for

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) select committee via video link in the Parliament on Tuesday.

According to a report in BBC Sport, during the parliamentary hearing, Clarke apologised for his words after being prompted to say sorry by MP Kevin Brennan.

Brennan said Clarke’s language in reference to black players was the kind that did not encourage inclusion, while fellow committee member Alex Davies-Jones called it “abhorrent”. “My unacceptable

words in front of Parliament were a disservice to our game and to those who watch, play, referee and administer it. This has crystallised my resolve to move on,” said Clarke in a statement. “I am deeply saddened that I have offended those diverse communities in football that I and others worked so hard to include,” he added.

“We can confirm that Greg Clarke has stepped down from his role as our chairman,” said an FA statement.

After 8 months on hold, int’l table tennis is back

WEIHAI

CHINESE top paddler Chen Meng was slated to be crowned for the first time at the ITTF Women’s World Cup, but what made her even more excited was the fact that she could play competitive games again.

“Almost every day during the past several months, I’ve been dreaming of returning to the court and playing matches,” the world number one women’s singles player said after win-



ning the World Cup title on Tuesday, reports Xinhua news agency.

The ITTF Women’s World Cup began last Sunday in Wei-

hai, east China’s Shandong province, ending an eight-month hiatus of international table tennis due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 21 players from 15 countries and regions participated in the three-day Women’s World Cup. It was the first international sports event hosted in China featuring overseas athletes.

The last tournament held before the World Cup was the ITTF World Tour Platinum

Qatar Open, which ended on March 8.

“At first we expected that suspension of table tennis activities would last one or two months. But when it turned to June or July, the pandemic was still not over. We didn’t know when it would be either,” recalled ITTF CEO Steve Dainton.

The Men’s Cup and the ITTF Finals will also be held in China later this month, as the ITTF called the series as #RESTART.

Forward Gurjant Singh hopes to prove his mettle ahead of Olympics

BENGALURU

FORWARD Gurjant Singh, who was part of the Indian men’s team for the FIH Hockey Pro League earlier in the year, feels a little more accuracy in his game can help him be a regular in the team.

“Playing against top teams like Belgium and Netherlands was a great exposure for me. I feel there is more that I can do in order to improve and execute my role to perfection. These next few months will be important for me and I hope I can prove my mettle ahead of the Olympic Games,” Singh said.

The team’s core probable group has been living in a bio-secure environment at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility since August this year after a six-week break.

Living in a bubble where the players are not permitted out of



Gurjant Singh (right) in action

particular zones can be difficult but Gurjant highlighted that the effort has been made easy with teammates.

“It is not easy going about a set routine and living in a bio-bubble where moving around out of the permitted zones within the cam-

pus is prohibited. The rules are followed to the T and these circumstances can be challenging for any player,” said Singh, who was part of the FIH Junior Men’s World Cup winning team in 2016. “We couldn’t have done it without the team-bonding we share and

the support we have received from the coaching staff who themselves have not stepped out of the campus since the last nine months. They have become our family away from home,” he added. The forward further emphasised that this period has given him an opportunity to learn from his seniors and also understand the areas which he needs to pay more attention.

“I think as chief coach Graham (Reid) says, we need to make the most of the situation and utilize this time off competition to introspect about our own game. I have in these past months tried to pin point the areas I am not up to the mark and I have also been speaking to other forwards in the group about right positioning and timing. Players like Sunil, Akashdeep, Ramandeep have all been quite helpful in this regard,” he said. *JANS*

Oz to wear indigenous jersey for India T20Is

MELBOURNE

THE Australian men’s cricket team will wear an indigenous jersey for the upcoming three-match T20I series against India beginning November 27, the design of which was unveiled by Cricket Australia on Wednesday.

The shirt continues the storytelling of the first ever Australia team to tour overseas when in 1868, a group of Aboriginal cricketers played 47 matches in the UK having made a three-month journey.

The jersey has been designed by Kirrae Whurrong woman Aunty Fiona Clarke, great great-grand daughter of Grongarong (Mosquito), who was one of the members of the team that played in England in 1868, designed the original Walka-

bout Wickets artwork that will feature on the front of the playing



shirt.

It has been co-designed by Courtney Hagen, Butchulla and Gubbi Gubbi woman and Cricket Australia’s Indigenous Engagement Specialist.

The artwork represents past,

present and future Aboriginal cricketers, with the large circle representing Lord’s and the smaller circles signify the team’s various meeting places during that tour.

India’s tour of Australia will commence with the three ODIs at the Sydney Cricket Ground (November 27, 29) and Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 2). That will be followed by the three T20Is at Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 4) and the SCG (December 6, 8).

The two teams will then compete in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy starting with the pink-ball Test in Adelaide from December 17. It will be followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the SCG (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15). *JANS*