



WINDOWS



Swami Agnivesh passes away

New Delhi (PTI): Social activist Swami Agnivesh, who was suffering from liver cirrhosis for a long time, died of multi-organ failure at a Delhi hospital, doctors said. He was 80. Agnivesh was critically ill and admitted to an ICU of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, and was on ventilatory support since Tuesday, the doctors said. "He was suffering from liver cirrhosis and died today due to multi-organ failure as his condition deteriorated and he went into cardiac arrest at 6 pm," a spokesperson of the hospital said. Resuscitation was attempted but he passed away at 6:30 pm, he said.



China sets up military base at Finger 5 of Pangong Lake

New Delhi (IANS): China has set up a military base near Finger 5, in the north bank of Pangong Lake, completely cutting off the Indian Army. The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 Fingers (fingers are mountain spurs jutting into a lake in military parlance) that are contested by both sides.

India claims the Line of Actual Control at Finger 8 and had been holding on to area till Finger 4 but in a clear alteration of status quo, the Chinese have been camping at Finger

4 and have set up fortifications between Finger 5 and 8.

Two months ago, Indian intelligence agencies flagged that cranes, concrete mixture trucks, and other building construction machineries were spotted near Finger 5. They had also flagged that China is making military barracks and offices. Sources said China has stationed hundreds of thousands of troops as well materials at these bases. They have placed tanks, artillery guns and other military armaments at Finger 5. At Finger

8, troops from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) have set up barracks and constructed underground tunnels. They have set up huge military infrastructure at Finger 8.

Till last year, there was no military infrastructure work carried out in these disputed areas and Indian Army troops used to carry out patrols.

There have been regular face-offs between the two armies between Finger 4 and Finger 8, a distance of eight kilometres, on the northern bank of the lake. Indian Army Spokesperson

Colonel Aman Anand was unavailable for comments.

Now, the Indian Army is unable to move ahead of Finger 4 as PLA troops have occupied some heights there. As a precautionary measure, Indian troops have occupied some heights overlooking the positions occupied by the PLA.

The movement of Indian Army troops beyond Finger 4 is completely cut off, sources said, owing to provocative Chinese military movements. **Continued on Page 5**



An IAF aircraft flies in the Ladakh region amid the India-China stand off, in Leh on Friday

Hot and humid day in Delhi; no rainfall likely till Tuesday

New Delhi (PTI): The national capital reeled under a spell of heat and humidity on Friday, with the maximum temperature settling at 37.8 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average.

The meteorological department said the skies over the city would remain clear and no rains were likely till Tuesday. Humidity levels remained between 90 per cent and 44 per cent. So far in September, the city has recorded just 20.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 66.4 mm -- a deficiency of 69 per cent. Overall, it has recorded 576.5 mm precipitation against the normal of 590.2 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season starts. The IMD has

said the monsoon is likely to stay longer in the national capital this year and will start withdrawing only in the "initial days of October".

The wind system had reached Delhi on June 25, two days earlier than normal. Earlier this year, the weather department had revised the date for the withdrawal of the monsoon from Delhi from September 21 to September 25. The minimum temperature was recorded at 26 degrees Celsius, a notch above the normal. The weatherman forecast partly cloudy skies for Saturday and said the maximum and the minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 37 degrees Celsius and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

AP SEZ feels honoured for associating with Rafale

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: On the momentous occasion of the Rafale aircraft being inducted into the Indian Air Force by the sobriquet 'Golden Arrows', two of Sri City units, Hunter Douglas and Siddhartha Logistics have been associated with Dassault Rafale Aircraft project. While Hunter Douglas India installed the Metal Ceiling at the service hangar

of the aircraft, Siddhartha Logistics Pvt Ltd holds the inventories of individual parts at its modern warehouse.

The Hunter Douglas India Ltd, a 100% owned subsidiary of the Hunter Douglas Group, has a state-of-the-art facility to manufacture architectural products in Sri City, under the brand name LUXALON®. As partners in readying the

ground support facilities, Hunter Douglas has successfully supplied and installed the 'Luxalon 300C' linear metal ceiling for the Rafale fighter Jet Hangar at Ambala Airforce Station, Punjab.

The Siddhartha Logistics Pvt Ltd, a unit at Free Trade Warehousing Zone of Sri City, holds the inventories of parts for Dassault France. Siddhartha Logistics developed a supply chain model

which is mainly used for defence offset logistics & supply chain management for India. As per its model, defence equipment suppliers, who have offset obligations, no longer need to transport the goods from India to their country and return transport to India for supply to the Ministry of Defence as per orders.

Taking pride in their association with the Dassault

Rafale Aircraft project, Sri City MD Ravindra Sannareddy said that they feel honoured as these units are able to contribute their best to the nation. With the constant support given by the Andhra Pradesh government, Sri City emerged as one of the mega industrial parks in the country that are fuelling India's ambition of becoming a manufacturing hub.

US, India resolve to take on Pak-backed terror groups

New Delhi/Washington (IANS): The US and India have resolved to take concerted action against pan-Islamist terror groups Al Qaeda and Islamic State (ISI) and also the Kashmir-centric Pakistan sponsored outfits, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HuM).

In a joint statement on Thursday, the US-India counter-terrorism joint working group and designations dialogue, both sides denounced use of terrorist proxies and strongly condemned cross-border terrorism in all its forms.

While discussing the

threats posed by the UN-sanctioned terrorist entities, the two sides emphasized the need for concerted action against all terrorist networks, including the Al Qaeda, IS, LeT, JeM, and HuM.

The statement followed the 17th meeting of the US-India Counter Terrorism Joint Working Group and the third session of the US-India Designations Dialogue held virtually on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mahaveer Singhvi, joint secretary for counter terrorism in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Ambassador Nathan A. Sales at the US State Department coordina-

tor for counterterrorism, led the respective inter-Agency/inter-Departmental delegations in a far-reaching conversation on counter-terrorism cooperation.

Both sides resolved to continue close coordination on counter-terrorism, an important element of the comprehensive global strategic partnership that exists between the two countries.

They also shared information about their priorities and procedures for pursuing sanctions and designations against terrorist groups and individuals, particularly in light of recent legislative changes in India.

Pak targets forward areas in J-K

Jammu (PTI): The Pakistan Army on Friday opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward areas along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

This is the third consecutive day that Pakistani troops have targeted areas along the LoC. "At about 0830 hours, Pak initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & shelling with mortars along LoC in Mankote sector in district Poonch," a defence spokesman said. On Thursday, the Pakistan Army had opened fire with small arms and shelled mortars along the LoC.

Aiyo Rama! Fraudsters use fake cheques to draw ₹6 lakh from Ram temple trust

Ayodhya (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh Police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for fraudulently transferring Rs 6 lakh from the bank account of the Ram Mandir Trust through two fake cheques and attempting to transfer around Rs 10 lakh with a third cheque that was timely detected as counterfeit by the bank.

A case has been registered at the Kotwali police station here on a complaint filed by the Trust's secretary and VHP leader Champat Rai, a senior police official said. "We have seized the account in which the fund has been transferred. A police team has been sent to Lucknow and another team to Mumbai as the ac-

count in which the money has been transferred is of Maharashtra," Ayodhya DIG Deepak Kumar told PTI. He said those behind the crime have withdrawn Rs 4 lakh from the fraudulently transferred amount while Rs 2 lakh is still in their account.

Rs 2.5 lakh was fraudulently transferred from the Trust's account in State Bank of India (SBI) on September 1 and Rs 3.5 lakh on September 8 through a second fake cheque, the FIR said. The issue came to light after a senior official of the SBI in Lucknow called Rai to confirm if the Trust had issued a cheque for transfer of Rs 9.86 lakh. "We give phone calls to all our customers before

clearing cheques (with large amounts). I myself called the customer regarding the clearing of cheque for Rs 9 lakh 86 thousand and the customer (Rai) received the phone after many repeated calls," Mona Rastogi, deputy manager of the clearing department of SBI, told PTI. She said it was certain that bank officials had called on the Trust's registered phone number to confirm payments for the first two "fake" cheques of Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh each before clearing the payments earlier this month. "Definitely the bank had called the customer before clearing the cheques of Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh. The call records and details

are being checked to ascertain if the customer had received the calls," she said.

Rastogi said had Rai not taken her call, the third cloned cheque would also have been cleared because it appeared as original and the signatures too raised no doubts.

"The cheques are cleared if the norms are followed and the signatures are found to be correct," she said. In his complaint filed with the police, Rai stated that the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has crores of rupees in its bank account and it was earlier unaware that the funds were fraudulently transferred from the account.

Continued on Page 5

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Womenia



Pranitha aces the silk saree look

South Indian actress Pranitha Subhash slayed a metallic polka silk zari saree from Anavila and paired it with the bottle green embroidered blouse. She looked stunning in green choker, pretty earrings, a tiny bandi with Fizzy Goblet heeled juttis.

Exploring wildlife through photography



A rare click at Kenya in Africa during 2018

V PRADEEP KUMAR

The penchant for wildlife photography made KR Sushmitha Reddy, a 33-year-old software engineer, stand unique in the pilgrim city to which she belongs. She became the first international female wildlife photographer from the temple city after camera became her kaleidoscope.

She always had a craving for a sense of mystery and awe with which she plunged into the adventurous passion in 2016 only after putting in tons of efforts in convincing her parents.

During her new journey, this marketing professional at a Bengaluru based management consulting firm, fell in love with nature and started to click everything that gives her a sense of joy. After realising there are so many species in the animal kingdom whose numbers are drastically dwindling she

Sushmitha is the first lady to take up this hobby from the pilgrim city and this hobby is more exciting as it involves a surprising element. Many of her clicks find place in exhibitions across the globe

shifted her focus to those rare species which exist in extreme conditions and remote areas of the world.

Sushmitha recorded and documented species like snow leopard in the Himalayas, Gelada monkeys and Ethiopian wolf in Africa and lots of other species. "I then realised that it's still not late to act on it, so that our future generations need not look at Lions, Elephants, Giraffes and many others in books

like how we see dinosaurs today", she averred.

Though photography gives Sushmitha express herself artistically, she found wildlife photography more exciting because there is always a surprise element in it and with wild animals, one needs to work hard to get good images. Understanding animal behaviour is essential to being a good wildlife photographer. Sailing on two boats happily she dons the attire of



Sushmitha Reddy on her mission at Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh

wildlife photographer during weekends and holidays while concentrating on her job in the remaining days.

She could not forget the moments of clicking a snow leopard in the Himalayas sometime back as it was very difficult to get acclimated to the higher altitudes, being stranded to a landslide and facing many hardships. She clicked beautiful photos of hundreds of rare species by spending months together in dense forests.

"A portrait of a lion was my favourite image as it was my close encounter and head on meeting such a great animal. It just felt like we were communicating with each other and the experience that I cherish forever", she recollected. She made an in depth study into

the lifestyle of animals and their search for food in the changing atmosphere.

She had a few achievements to her credit. She was a finalist in wildlife photographer of the year organised by the prestigious Natural History Museum, London and her images from wildlife and nature were exhibited at djmocoofficial 2019, an annual competitive photography contest. Many of the photos from her camera found place in several exhibitions across the globe.

"The images are a celebration of joy that we have diverse wildlife around. I would like to record them for posterity and bring in that awareness that we can still do our bit to conserve our nature", Sushmitha concludes.

QUICK TIP

Routines are lifesavers

Whether you have had a late night or a day full of endless meetings, listen to your skin. The need to follow routines can't be stressed upon enough, especially on the days when you don't feel like it. Follow the simple three-step routine of cleansing-toning-moisturising. After this short seven-minute daily ritual, you'll sleep peacefully to welcome the next day.



Do you have a case of 'Maskne'?

PUJA GUPTA

Since the month of March after COVID19 was declared as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the group leading from the front as well as experts in the field began to acknowledge the use of masks as a first line of defense against the virus.

With the pandemic ensued lockdown, a number of do's and don'ts were facilitated. It is likely that the use of masks will remain a constant part of our lives in the near future; wearing a mask at work, while running errands or just walking around to keep you safe. Since masks persistently rub against your skin you may experience breakouts; let's

understand how to handle these breakouts better.

Using face masks may cause skin irritation and breakouts for many reasons - type of fabric and tightness over the face are a few examples; the material may cause excessive friction to the skin. Many are sensitive to fabrics and when paired with makeup, dirt and sweat, it is a recipe for acne. Irritation caused by wearing masks is likely to be a result of 'contact dermatitis' - an allergic reaction to cloth materials; the bacteria formed from not cleaning the mask well enough or re-usage of disposable masks. The use of a mask may lead to abrasions on the bridge of your nose, chin, cheeks, or also behind the ears.

Here are a few tips to prevent or treat breakouts while safely using masks.

Mask Hygiene

First and foremost, mask cleanliness must be the topmost priority, it should be washed or be swapped for a new one after every use. If you experience skin irritation, use antiseptic soap with warm water to clean your mask. Rinse it thoroughly and ensure it is completely dry before use; you may choose to dry steam your mask in the washing machine.

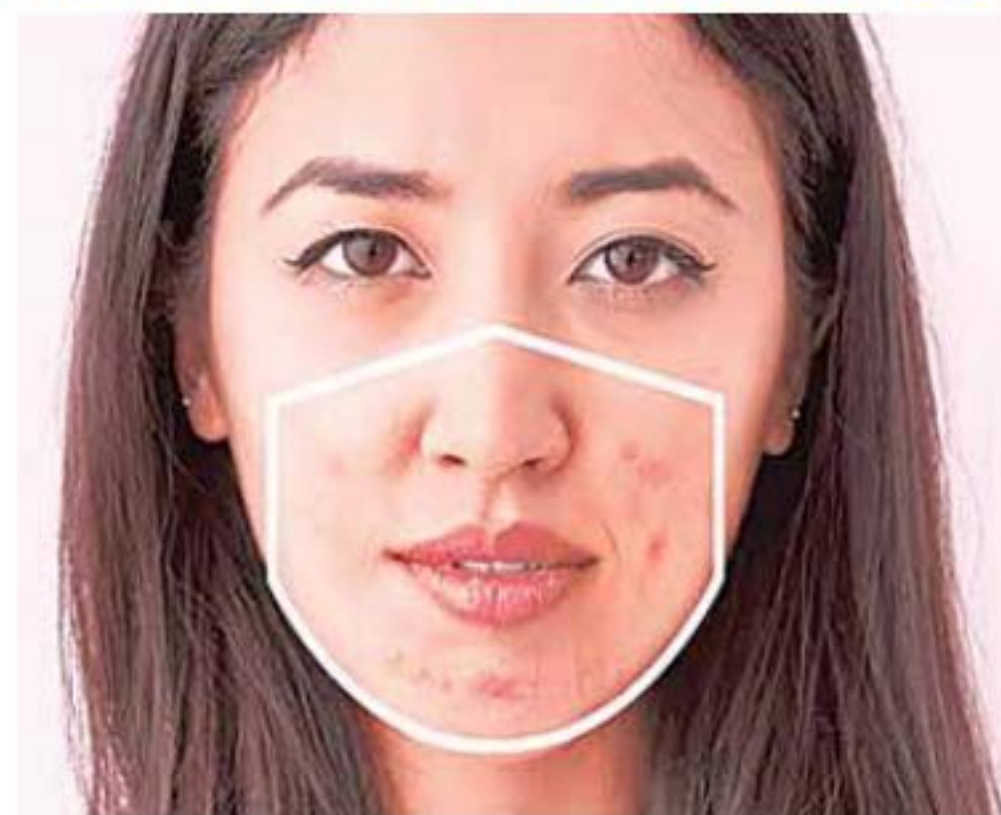
Skincare

Makeup may clog your pores and wearing makeup under a mask could increase the acne or breakouts; take a break from using any

cosmetics for a while, or at least till you get it treated. Cleanse your skin regularly by washing your face every morning and in the night with a mild face wash that will help unclog pores. Do not squeeze or break your pimples; this will further lead to inflammation and may also infect the area. Exfoliation is also important as it helps the skin cells turnover. Salicylic or Glycolic Acids present in exfoliants will help prevent acne. These are also available in the form of serums. Avoid using products with Petrolatum, an ingredient used in cream and ointments (petroleum jelly).

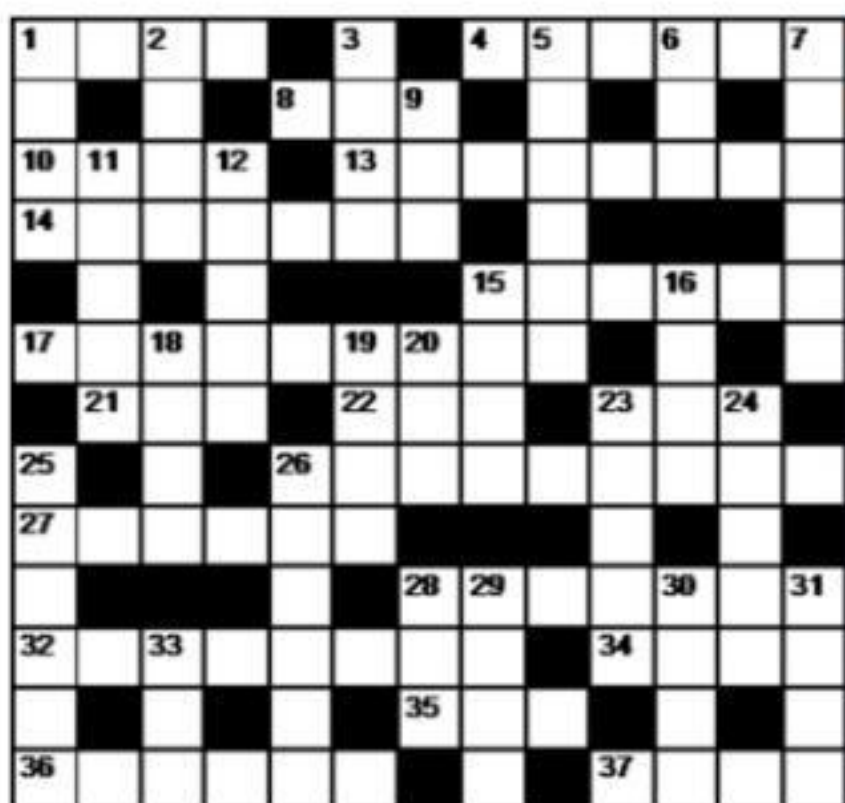
Choose the right fabric

Fabric sensitivity varies from person to person and different



fabrics come with different textures. Look for a soft and breathable material that is able to absorb moisture. Do not let go of the basic hygiene practices, washing your hands thoroughly before go-

ing, before wearing your mask, out as well as immediately after returning home. If issues persist, and there is an infection scare, you must consult your doctor immediately.



CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Milky gem (4)
- 4 Economize (6)
- 8 Fellow (3)
- 10 Forearm bone (4)
- 13 Wanders (8)
- 14 Food fish (7)
- 15 Lever for a rudder (6)
- 17 Capitulated (9)
- 21 "Hip" anagram for a Greek character ? (3)
- 22 Head of grain (3)
- 23 Cry of delight (3)
- 26 Mythological king (9)
- 27 Galapagos lizard (6)
- 28 Mocking (7)
- 32 French wine (8)
- 34 Scandinavian books (4)
- 35 Merry and bright (3)
- 36 Almost (6)
- 37 Flutter (4)

Down

- 1 Major composition (4)
- 2 Old Indian coin (4)
- 3 Adds (4)
- 5 Forthrightly sincere (6)
- 6 Anger (3)
- 7 Dough base (6)
- 9 Agreed (3)
- 11 Abate (3,2)
- 12 Old math aids (5)
- 15 Fixed period (4)
- 16 Boxer Spinks (4)
- 18 ___ En Lai : Mao's prime minister ? (4)
- 19 Large prefix (4)
- 20 Pastoral sound (3)
- 23 Card game for three (5)
- 24 Dog (5)
- 25 Typewriter tape (6)
- 26 Temper, as metal (6)
- 28 Prison colloquially (3)
- 29 Academic test (4)
- 30 Object of worship (4)
- 31 Breathe in sharply (4)
- 33 Record company ___ Victor (3)

SUDOKU



NEWS ROUNDUP

Elnaaz Norouzi home quarantines on return to Mumbai from Germany

Sacred Games actress Elnaaz Norouzi is back in Mumbai after a six-month stay in Germany, and has opted for mandatory home quarantine.

"I am so glad to be back. Currently, I am doing my quarantine period. There are multiple projects lined up and I can't wait to get back on the sets. I had a great time in Spain and Germany. I learned as much as I could -- be it cooking, gardening, or other things," Elnaaz said.

Although she spent her time in Germany, she made a trip to Spain, too. "We went on a holiday to Mallorca islands in Spain as the situation eased out a bit. The world is going through a difficult time and we all can do nothing but to do our bit to stay healthy and safe -- for ourselves and for everyone around us."

Elnaaz rose to fame with her performance in web-series such as "Sacred Games" and "Abhay".

"I am happy to be back, though I am staying indoors for now. I urge everyone to stay safe and follow the rules."



India had 6.4 million Covid-19 cases as of May: ICMR Serosurvey



New Delhi: The much-awaited findings of the first national serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, indicates that 0.73 percent of adults in India were exposed to SARS-CoV-2, amounting to a total of 6.4 million

Covid-19 infections by early May. The survey was conducted from May 11 to June 4 and covered 28,000 individuals whose blood samples were tested for IgG antibodies. It found that seropositivity was highest in the age group of 18-45 years (43.3 per cent), followed by those between

Shimla: The Himachal government admitted that the Coronavirus pandemic has entered the community spread stage in the hill state, which until recently proudly claimed to have managed the pandemic better than any other state.

Health Minister Dr Rajeev Sehgal remarked that the "sudden spike in positive cases during the past few days, with more patients succumbing to the disease, hints at the possibility of community spread in the state." Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur added that the Covid-19 infections were at an all-time high in the state. "There are different views re-

Virus enters community spread stage in HP

garding if there's community spread, but we can certainly say that the state has entered a crucial stage," Thakur added.

He made a strong appeal to citizens to take utmost care to protect themselves. "When the number of cases were not so high, people strictly followed social distancing norms and were extra vigilant. But now when the cases are raising, the attitude has become very casual. Carelessness is definitely a dangerous sign," the Chief Minister warned. Its reported that districts of Solan, Simaur, Kangra and Una have emerged as hotspots.

46-60 years (39.5 per cent) and it was the lowest among those aged above 60 (17.2 per cent). A total of 64,68,388 adult infections were estimated in India by May, the survey report said.

"The findings of our survey indicate that the overall seroprevalence in India was low, with less than one per cent of the adult population exposed to SARS-CoV-2 by mid-May 2020. This low prevalence observed in most districts indicates that India is in the early phase of the epidemic and the

majority of the Indian population is still susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection," the survey report highlighted.

It also stressed the need to continue to implement the context-specific containment measures including the testing of all those who are symptomatic, isolating positive cases and tracing high-risk contacts to slow transmission and to prevent the over-burdening of the health system.

According to the survey report, seroprevalence ranged between 0.62

and 1.03 per cent across the four strata of districts. The stratification of districts as zero cases (15 districts), low (22 districts), medium (16 districts) and high (17 districts) was done on the basis of the reported number of Covid-19 cases as on April 25. Based on the overall adjusted seroprevalence of 0.73 per cent and reported number of Covid-19 cases, it was estimated that for every RT-PCR confirmed case of COVID-19 there were 82-130 infections in India.

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON DEFENCE

Pawar asks govt to present details on India-China crisis



New Delhi: NCP president Sharad Pawar said there should be a presentation by the government on what is happening on the India-China border, particularly in Ladakh, where the armies of the two countries are involved in a face-off. Pawar, who is in Delhi to attend a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, said there are other defence-related issues on the table for discussion, but he will make a request that a presentation is made on it. Chief of Defence Staff Bipin

Rawat also appeared before the panel. Amid a prolonged standoff between India and China along the LAC in Ladakh, Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat on Friday appeared before a parliamentary panel on defence. While the official agenda for the meeting was listed as 'provision and monitoring of the quality of ration and livery items to the Defence forces, especially in border areas', some members have said they will raise the issue of the Ladakh situation.

'Why different food served to jawans and officers'

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi finally chose to make an appearance at the parliamentary panel on defence a day after Indian and Chinese foreign ministers held talks over the border situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. While the talks were not path-breaking, both ministers stressed the need to normalise things.

At the committee meeting, Gandhi questioned why there is a difference in diets between the jawans and officers stationed at the borders. Interestingly, this is an issue that has been raised by a few soldiers in the past, such as Tej Bahadur Yadav who later faced disciplinary action.

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday asked the Government of India whether it has any plans to reclaim 'land taken by China' or 'is that also going to be left to an 'Act of God'.

"The Chinese have taken our land. When exactly is GOI planning to get

Will 'Act of God' reclaim land from China: Rahul

it back? Or is that also going to be left to an 'Act of God'?" the Congress

leader tweeted.

India recently outflanked China by taking control of strategic heights near Pangong Lake's southern bank. It thwarted an attempt by the Chinese soldiers to transgress into Indian areas near the southern bank of Pangong Tso near Chushul in Ladakh.

Model accuses Sajid Khan of sexual harassment

Mumbai: In 2018, filmmaker Sajid Khan was accused of sexual harassment by three women which included two actresses and a journalist. The filmmaker was dropped from Housefull 4 and the director credit was given to Farhad Samji, who completed the film. Now, another model-cum-actress has taken to social media to say that Sajid sexually harassed her when she was just 17.

The accuser wrote a long note on Instagram, saying that she had to speak up before the freedom of speech is taken away in the country. She said that she did not speak up in 2018 because she had no godfather in the film industry and had to look after her family. She then added that she is speaking up because her par-

ents are not with her anymore. Sajid allegedly tried to touch her and told her to strip in front of him to get a role in Housefull, the model has said. She concluded her note saying that he deserves to be behind bars not only for casting couch but also for stealing away people's dreams.

She captioned the post, "Before democracy dies and there is no freedom of speech anymore I thought I should speak (sic)!"

The accuser also took to Instagram stories to condemn people who abused her in the post's comments. She said that she did not speak up for fame or money but while re-evaluating her life thought that she should speak up against Sajid.

North Korea issues shoot-to-kill orders to prevent Coronavirus, says US

Trump says Kim Jong Un showed off headless body of his executed uncle to North Korean officials

Washington: North Korean authorities have issued shoot-to-kill orders to prevent the coronavirus entering the country from China, according to the commander of US forces in the South.

The impoverished North -- whose crumbling health system would struggle to cope with a major virus outbreak -- has not confirmed a single case of the disease that has swept the world since first emerging in China, the North's key ally.

Pyongyang closed its border with China in January to try to prevent contamination, and in July state media said it had raised its state of emergency to the maximum level.

US Forces Korea (USFK) commander Robert Abrams said that the border shutdown had increased demand for smuggled goods, prompting authorities to intervene.

The North introduced a new "buffer zone, one or two kilometers up on the Chinese border," Abrams told an online conference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington on Thursday.

"They've got North Korean SOF (Special Operations Forces) out there. ... Strike forces, they've got shoot-to-kill orders in place."

The border closure had effectively



"accelerated the effects" of economic sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear programs, he added, with imports from China plunging 85 per cent.

The isolated country is also grappling with the aftermath of Typhoon Maysak, with its state media reporting more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed or inundated.

Meanwhile, the headless body of Kim Jong Un's executed uncle was displayed to senior North Korean officials, US President Donald Trump told the author of an upcoming book on the US president.

Jang Song Thaek, the North Korean leader's uncle by marriage and a hugely powerful figure within the regime, was

purged for treason and corruption in 2013, in what was widely seen as Kim mercilessly asserting his authority.

Kim "tells me everything. Told me everything," Trump told the Washington Post investigative journalist Bob Woodward, according to his forthcoming book "Rage".

"He killed his uncle and he put the body right in the steps," Trump said, in an apparent reference to a building used by senior officials.

"And the head was cut, sitting on the chest," he added in excerpts from the book seen by AFP.

The North has never officially stated how Jang was executed, although multiple reports say an anti-aircraft gun was used.

Aftab Shivdasani infected

Mumbai: Actor Aftab Shivdasani on Friday said he has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been advised to quarantine at home. Shivdasani shared the news in statement posted on Twitter, saying that he "showed minor symptoms" of the novel disease, following which he got himself tested.

LOST & FOUND

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Notice of 28th Annual General Meeting. Book Closure and Remote E-Voting information

NOTICE is hereby given that the 28th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of VirtualSoft Systems Limited will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") on Monday, 28th September, 2020 at 09.00 am to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2020 and remote e-voting details have been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository. The date of completion of email of the notices to the shareholders is September 06, 2020.

In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company/Depository, please follow below instructions to register your email ID for obtaining annual report for FY 2019-20 and login details for e-voting.

Physical Holding : Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@masserv.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN/ Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address. Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque to our RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020) along with letter mentioning folio no. if not registered already.

Demat Holding: Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP.

These documents are also available on Company's website www.virtualsoft.com for download by the members. Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Company has offered e-voting facility for transacting all the business by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) through their portal www.evotingindia.com to enable the members to cast their votes electronically.

The remote e-voting period commences on Friday, September 25, 2020 (09:00 am) and ends on Sunday, September 27, 2020 (05:00 pm). No e-voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time. During this period members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of September 21, 2020, may cast their vote by remote e-voting. Any person, who acquires shares and becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut off date i.e. September 21, 2020, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at helpdesk@cdslindia.com or RTA, MAS Services Limited at info@masserv.com. However, if the members are already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for voting through e-voting shall be made available at the AGM and the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. FCS 8690 & CP No. 9870), Proprietor Mrs. S.J.K & COMPANY, Company Secretaries, has been appointed as Scrutinizer for the e-voting process. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting is contained in the letter sent with the Notice of the AGM. Any query/grievance relating to e-voting may be addressed to Ms. Mukta Ahuja, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Virtualsoft Systems Limited, 145, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-III, New Delhi-110020, Phone: 011-42701491, Email: mukta@virtualsoft.com. NOTICE is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Thursday, September 22, 2020 to Monday, September 28, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

For Virtualsoft Systems Ltd.
Sd/-
Mukta Ahuja
Company Secretary & Compliance
Place: New Delhi
Dated: 10.09.2020

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The inexplicable moves of Boris Johnson

Has Britain really put its foot on the accelerator and hurtling itself towards the cliff by stating that it could break international law by ignoring some parts of its European Union divorce treaty? Does this not amount to undermining 'Pacta sunt servanda' which is the foundation of prosperous future relations? Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister may be trying to push the block out of the negotiations perhaps.

Otherwise, why would it do so? Britain plunged Brexit trade talks into crisis on September 9 by explicitly acknowledging that it could break international law by ignoring some parts of its European Union divorce treaty, prompting a rapid rebuke from the EU's chief executive. Britain proposed a legislation that it would ignore some of the clauses of the Withdrawal Agreement which was signed as recently as in January. The Bill - The Internal Market Bill - spells out that certain provisions are "to have effect notwithstanding inconsistency or incompatibility with international or other domestic law."

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European

Commission, promptly tweeted that she was "very concerned." "This would break international law and undermines trust. The bill's publication, on the day the EU's chief negotiator arrived in London for a new round of trade talks, suggested to some that Prime Minister Boris Johnson might be trying to goad the bloc into storming out of those negotiations. But EU sources said they would not seek a suspension.

Secondly, the government said the UK would not follow EU rules for state aid — a key stumbling block in the negotiations with Europe to date. Instead, it will apply state aid rules agreed at the World Trade Organization level, which are less strict. It raises questions about the UK's ability to apply a WTO framework — which is meant to solve trade issues between two different nations — to its unique four-nation formation.

After all, the United Kingdom is not a single nation. It is a union of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Crown dependencies (the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) are largely self-governing with the UK respon-

sible for their defence and international relations and are not part of the United Kingdom. Under the latest government bill, the UK government is overriding that part of the Withdrawal Agreement by giving its ministers the power to "disapply" that specific law concerning state aid.

It addresses the Northern Ireland Protocol - an element of the withdrawal agreement designed to prevent a hard border returning to the island of Ireland. The Bill proposes no new checks on goods moving from Northern Ireland to Great Britain. If EU was taken aback by the Bill moved, it is no surprise. The withdrawal agreement was a legal document. But the United Kingdom fears that the WTO rules would bring the hard border alive between England and Ireland.

Another gambit that Boris Johnson has taken with the Bill is with Northern Ireland. Will it lead to disastrous consequences of yester years? The Internal Market Bill will be debated on September 14, for the first time, by the government. What exactly does Boris Johnson seek? A clean exit or continuation of the uncertainty? He is being too political. All his efforts, so far, have been aimed at clinging to power somehow and little national interest seems to be in his mind.

Ruling parties playing vindictive politics

IN MY OPINION

V RAMU SARMA

While Corona has left people scared and crippled the economy, it also has a positive side. It has helped people to focus more attention on clean body if not mind. It has taught them to leave the footwear outside the door, wash hands and feet soon after entering the house since it cannot be done outside as it used to be the system in our ancient homes thanks to modernisation and apartment culture.

They have understood the fact that we move around so many different places. They may be unhygienic or lack cleanliness. So many germs and bacteria will enter into the body through the feet. Whenever we enter the house these may spread in the surroundings.

From people running from one place to another in the name of work pressure, coming home late, and going to parties and pubs in the name of recreation during weekends, they have learnt to be at home with family and be safe. It has helped them to bid adieu to the culture of saying hi and bye to their kids and has made them spend quality time with them.

It has also brought back the habit of reinventing the traditional cuisine at home and has pulled them out from the habit of rushing to a restaurant or a bandi wallah past midnight to eat idly or dosa or Maggi or omelette. This of course has affected the business of many that is a different issue. It has taught people to go back to the practice of washing vegetables before storing them in refrigerators. Covid also has brought back the habit of greeting people with traditional Namaskar.

All this is a welcome sign. But the Covid which has brought so many changes, does



not seem to have had impact on the thinking or behaviour of the politicians. It does not seem to have had any kind of soothing impact on their nerves. The ruling parties continue to treat opposition parties with contempt and spare no efforts to suppress their voice of dissent under the guise of rules and regulations.

There appears to be no end to vindictive politics as well in many states. There is nothing called proactive interaction between the ruling parties and opposition. While the opposition feels that all acts of government are wrong, the government feels that opposition has pre-conceived notions and hence no point talking to them. They feel that opposition can never be intelligent and they cannot give any wise suggestion. They forget their behaviour when they were in opposition and the kind of allegations they had levelled on the Chair or the ruling party then.

The recent assertion of the government in the TS Legislative Assembly and the remarks of the Chief Minister that Assembly is not a place for public meeting and that every member has to strictly abide by the

rule and that time is allocated to them based on the strength of their party sounds a little harsh.

We have seen that in the two southern states, the newly formed Telangana and the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh, opposition was never permitted to express their dissent on any issue outside the Assembly. The party in power whether it be in Andhra Pradesh or here since bifurcation had put several restrictions on holding public meetings or taking out rallies by opposition.

Inside the house, the ruling party always wants to see that the opposition does not speak for more than couple of minutes even on a crucial issue listed for discussion. Rules must be followed. There can be no two different opinions on it. But there should be flexibility at certain times. That is part of effective and transparent public administration or what is known as governance. That is why the legislative bodies had given discretionary powers to the presiding officers.

A quick recall of the style of functioning of various Speakers in the last three decades from Balram Jakhar of Con-

gress party to Sumitra Mahajan of BJP and to the present Speaker of Lok Sabha Om Birla, the practice has been to regulate proceedings of the house in a manner which are both fair and appear to be fair. But this level of fairness is not seen in many state Assemblies.

Interestingly, the ruling parties in States which say that the opposition members cannot demand more time during debates want their party to take on the Union Government in Parliament. The parties which say that legislatures are not places for public meeting want their members to protest both inside and outside Parliament and join hands with like-minded parties in protests.

This is the dichotomy which one cannot understand. I have seen any number of debates where the opposition with even two members in Lok Sabha was given reasonably extra time as long as the member was speaking on some important subject and if the presentation was not irrelevant.

The normal procedure in any legislature or Parliament is that the Speaker decides the time to be allotted to each party. It is for the floor leader

of that party to decide how many of his members will speak on the subject. The allotted time is divided between them.

There umpteen number of occasions when some ace speakers had consumed more time than what was allotted to them. In such circumstances, the Speaker used to caution the member that he was exceeding his time limit and that he may be depriving his colleagues in the party to put forward their view point.

If the member still was unable to conclude, the Speaker used to ask the floor leader if that party would forego a chance for other speakers to speak or reduce number of speakers and some understanding in the form of give and take used to be arrived at.

But now the mikes are cut once the allotted time of the members is over. One is left to wonder how a member can do justice to an issue and put forward his argument on important subject that could impact the lives of crores of people in five or six minutes. It's not reading out rapid news. The Speakers can allow the members to take few more minutes using their discretionary power and the government has no right to question the Speaker.

That is what is the practice is in the Parliament. If need be the sitting of the house can be extended by couple of hours. But this trend has changed and now the presiding officers keep on interrupting every 30 seconds and resort to disconnecting the mike. On the other hand, the ruling party members and minister after minister give lecture on rules and its importance. If that time was judiciously given to the opposition may be the debates can be more fruitful.

The parties in power should understand that they do not have monopoly over intelligence. They should have the patience and magnanimity to listen to the other side, voice of dissent is very important in democracy. Having taken oath by Constitution, it is necessary that democracy should prevail in letter and spirit.



India must play active role in Baloch freedom struggle

SOBDAR BALOCH

I am often confronted with a question about how to create global awareness about the Balochistan movement. Common answers would be that India, Afghanistan, United States and friendly countries should initiate a debate and chalk out a long-term policy to work with Balochistan in order to maintain durable peace and prosperity of the region. Recognizing Balochistan as an occupied territory will pave the way for it to become a sovereign state.

India should make a concrete policy for assisting the Baloch people. The Indian government should give asylum/citizenship to us so that the Baloch diaspora can carry their movement for independence without being intimidated by anyone. If Baloch pro-independence parties can have their offices in the UK, US and other European countries,

then why can't they have a political office in India?

Delhi should take a leading role in exposing the gross human rights violation being perpetrated by the Pakistan Army in occupied Balochistan. India should train the Baloch patriots and help them raise an army of about 50,000 soldiers who should be sent to defend the borders of Balochistan. It would play a vital role in thwarting the Pakistani and Chinese exploitation and also dismantle Chinese military projects including naval bases in Jiwani, Ormara and Pasni.

A strong Baloch army will prevent the loot and plunder of Balochistan's rich resources like gold, copper, natural gas, coal and other rare minerals. China and Pakistan are trying hard to exploit the region, especially like Kohistan Marri.

New roads are being constructed and there are reports of heavy troop deployment forcing the locals from Bambar, Kahan, Rakni and the adjoining areas of district Kohlu to migrate. Levies (a paramilitary force) has been deployed to guard the logistics but the drilling sites are secured by the Pakistani army and Frontier Corps, controlled directly from Islamabad.

Last week, the ISI and Military Intelligence (MI) organized a rally in Kohlu city where former senator Mohbat Khan Zindozai Marri, Bahar Khan Bijarani (a local collaborator of Pakistan Army) and Inayaullah Zarkoon (head, Zarkoon tribe) gave speeches and offered full support to the government to start drilling for oil, gas, coal and other minerals.

The drilling of oil wells was started by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1973 but due to fierce resistance put up by some Balochs, it was not possible to install the machinery in mountainous areas of Kahan and Jhandaran region of Kohlu. Leaders like Hyrbair Marri and his father, late Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri, led the fight against the exploitation of region's resources.

The Baloch armed group, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), had also been targeting Pakistan Army cantonments, outposts and state-run exploration companies for a long time. BLA's spokesperson Azad Baloch had issued a stern warning to the Army asking them to stay away from the mineral-rich region.

A huge economic crisis in the country has made the Pakistani leaders in Islamabad to accelerate usurpation of Balochistan's minerals. Meanwhile, China is building underground naval bases and military installations in Jewani and Sonmiani region of Gawadar. A strong Baloch army can dismantle the Chinese military installations. These projects will be used against India and the US in future. India should approach EU, USA, Africa and the gulf countries to build a collective approach against the economic and military terrorism initiated by China in Balochistan, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and other areas.

India enjoys an overwhelming support of the global powers and can offer its expertise to build a global consensus for the Baloch cause. America and Islamic countries should invite Balochistan as a regional stakeholder. It is obvious that a weak Balochistan will only strengthen Pakistan and China.

We are also witnessing turmoil and proxy war against Afghanistan which has been orchestrated and supervised by the ISI. Baloch leader Hyrbair Marri, president of Free Balochistan Movement, had in an interview last year, also revealed how Pakistan is creating riots, disturbing internal security, law and order in India.

China, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have joined hands against India. Balochistan will however stand with its reliable and true friends. Balochs, just like the Kurds, deserve global attention and recognition and will always remain a trustworthy ally and friend of India, US, Afghanistan and Israel.

Listing of LIC an ill-placed move

The central government has initiated the process of selling a part of its stake in the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Earlier there were reports that the limit will only be confined to 5 to 10 per cent of the total stake, but there are indications now that the government may even go up to 25 per cent in offloading its shares in LIC. The decision by the government in this regard as a part of its disinvestment policy is not well placed and will be harmful to the interests of the nation.

Since the nationalisation of the insurance industry through an amalgamation of 245 private companies and the consequent formation of LIC in 1956 with an objective of people's money for people's welfare, the public sector LIC has been performing in a splendid manner by contributing huge investment to the infrastructural projects and the country's five year plans. In turn, the LIC has emerged as the world class organisation by creating many records in claims' settlement and other key aspects.

In the light of this, the Central government's decision to list LIC in the stock market will endanger our economic interests and the nation as a whole. In any economy, the domestic savings play a vital role and the savings, mobilized from the policyholders in India have been utilized properly for the purpose of the nation's growth. Today LIC has become a backbone of our economy and moreover it has now turned a household name. The government's arguments in defending its decision are not convincing.

K S Lakshmana Rao MLC, A.P Legislative Council, Prof.M.Venkateswara Rao, Chairman, People for India Forum, Guntur

V V K Suresh, Vice-Chairman, People for India Forum, Guntur



LETTERS

SSR suicide case

The film industry, no matter Bollywood or Tollywood or Kollywood, is replete with such incidents of suicides from time to time, given the high stakes involved in both the spheres of riches and limelight. Oddly enough, it is the turn of women's rights activists to take high moral ground and point out fingers at Rhea, accused in the Sushant Singh death by suicide case for reasons best known to them only. It is quite evident that each and every profession comes with certain hazards and film industry is no exception.

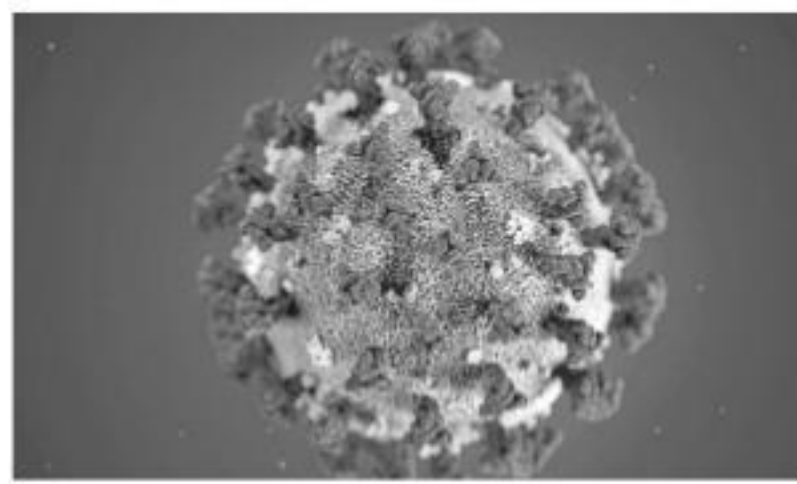
Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

The ongoing battle of Covid-19

This has reference to your editorial "Longer wait for corona vaccine" (Sept, 11). Pause in the UK manufacturing of vaccines is causing worry. Now over nine lakhs lives have been lost and over 25 per cent of the world population is inflicted by the virus. India stands second in the list of infections with over 45 lakh people being infected. Daily more and more people are affected. The lockdown had paid no dividends but ruined our economy and resulted in job loss.

It is nearly a year since the pandemic existed first in Wuhan. Living people have become witness for the death of their kith and kin.

Many countries are said to be in the race of medicines. UK medicine is paused. No country has passed the phase three and four trials in the discovery of a medicine to the virus. So the world leaders and the WHO should see that a medicine to stop the further spread of the



virus chain is made available to the public at least by this year-end so as to save many innocent lives.

Sravana Ramachandran, Chennai

IAF's master move

The formal induction of five Rafale fighter jets into Indian Air Force (IAF) at Ambala air base will surely prove a game changer for the country. The expected arrival of more fighter jets of the kind by the end 2021, should give more teeth to the IAF. The location of the base for the fighter is so wisely chosen that they can reach and tackle the enemies on both the frontiers, in a very short time, to give a befitting reply in view of the advanced weapon system aboard these fighters, capable of firing missiles beyond visual range. It can be confidently said that the thoughtful acquisition of these advanced and versatile fighters surely had their desired effect on China, while boosting the morale of India's defence forces.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

thehansreader@gmail.com

BHEL to partner with State in skill development drive

- Industries Minister Goutham Reddy seeks the public sector company's cooperation in its drive for skill development
- The Minister also enlists the support of NITI Aayog for the 30 skill development colleges to be set up on the state
- Goutham Reddy meets DRDO chairman, chiefs of Navy and Air Force

HANS NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: Industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy said Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) agreed in principle to set up BHEL Centre of Excellence in Andhra Pradesh.

According to a statement issued by his office on Friday, the minister requested BHEL chairman and managing director (CMD) Nalin Singhal to partner in awarding skill certificates by the state government and BHEL to the students who completed



Minister for Industries and IT Mekapati Goutham Reddy felicitating NITI Aayog CEO Amitab Kant in New Delhi on Friday

school education. Singhal responded positively and said they would partner in skill development and support ITI colleges in the state. Goutham Reddy said

the entrepreneur programme will start under the auspices of BHEL, and invited the public sector unit to set up one solar panels plant in each district.

The minister also met NITI Aayog chief executive officer (CEO) Amitab Kant and sought cooperation in upcoming 30 skill development colleges in the state. The minister said the main sources for revenue in the state are agriculture and industries and sought cooperation of NITI Aayog in those sectors to which Amitab Kant responded positively expressed his willingness to organise Digital Conclave in Vizag at any time from October.

Goutham Reddy also interacted with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chairman Gundra Satish Reddy and officials of Navy and Airforce and said the Government of Andhra Pradesh has laid special focus on defence in its new industrial policy. He sought DRDO's cooperation in this sector. Goutham Reddy asked Navy Chief Admiral Karambhir Singh to set up a sonic system in Donakonda and also to establish a Naval Base at Ramayapatnam port. Later, the minister met Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanova and sought cooperation for development of defence systems in the state.

CM prioritising women uplift despite financial crunch: Roja

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaavati: Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy prioritised women and child welfare and fulfilled every election promise made to women despite financial constraints and corona pandemic, said APIIC chairperson and YSRCP MLA RK Roja who hailed the Chief Minister for launching YSR Aasara scheme benefitting 88 lakh women of 8.7 lakh SHGs.

Addressing a press conference at APIIC office at Mangalagiri on Friday, the MLA said with a click of mouse by the Chief Minister, the first instalment towards reimbursement of outstanding loans of SHGs availed till April, 2019 has been released and Dwara women are very happy in the state.

Roja said the Chief Minister is committed for women empowerment and that can be seen from the fact that he appointed a Dalit woman as the home minister and an ST woman as Deputy Chief Minister, allotted 50 per cent reservation to women in nominated posts and works and brought various schemes like YSR Sampoorna Poshana,

- Hails release of Aasara funds benefiting lakhs of SHG members
- Points out that Jagan has appointed a Dalit woman as home minister and a tribal woman as Dy CM to prove his commitment to women empowerment
- Criticises TDP chief for not introducing a single welfare scheme for women and cheating them in his five-year rule



Cheyutha, Zero Interest loans to benefit women community.

She said Jagan Mohan Reddy introduced various schemes in education sector from YSR Pre-primary schools, Amma Vodi, Midday meals with healthy diet menu, revamping of school infrastructure under Naadu-Nedu scheme, Jagananna Vidya deevena, Vasathi Deevena to fee reimbursement and provided employment opportunities by setting up skill development centres and bringing law for 75 per cent reservation to local people in industries.

Slamming Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu for alleging irregularities in

YSR Aasara scheme, Roja said Naidu cheated women in his five-year tenure and didn't introduce a single welfare scheme for women. It was Naidu who stalled the CBI from entering the state and it was Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy who ordered a CBI probe into fire mishap at Antervedi.

Meanwhile, YSRCP women leaders performed 'Pal-abishekam' to the statue of former Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy at the party central office marking the launch of YSR Aasara scheme. YSRCP leaders Vangapandu Usha and Naramalli Padmaja were among those present.

State breaks 10k cases streak after weeks

Reports 9,999 fresh cases and 77 deaths in 24 hours

Amaravati: State on Friday broke the 10,000 cases streak that has been running for the past couple of weeks, showing a fresh addition of 9,999 Covid-19 cases in a day that saw more than 11,000 patients recovering from the infection.

The latest bulletin said 77 more Covid-19 patients succumbed in 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday. For the past few days, more number of Rapid Antigen Tests were being done rather than the RT-PCR tests, but the positives were turning out more or less in equal numbers.

The bulletin showed 5,47,686 total Covid-19 cases reported in the state so far, 4,46,716 recoveries and 4,779 deaths.

The number of active cases stood at 96,191.

East Godavari district reported 1,499 fresh cases in 24 hours while West Godavari and Chittoor added more than 1,000 each. Guntur and Prakasam districts added over 900 each.

Kadapa saw nine fresh fatalities, Chittoor, Prakasam and Nellore eight each. Krishna and Guntur reported seven more casualties each, Anantapur and Visakhapatnam six each, Vizianagaram and West Godavari five each, according to the bulletin. (PTI)

Naidu terms YSRCP govt 'anti-Dalit'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Demanding a white paper on the atrocities that had taken place on Dalits in the state in the last 15 months, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu urged all sections of people to unite against the government to fight the repression of Dalits and weaker sections.

Addressing a Dalita Sankharavam programme organised by the party to protest a series of incidents involving atrocities on Dalits on Friday, Naidu called for unity among Dalit organisations, opposition parties and silently suffering victims to fight back the rising atrocities under the oppressive regime of Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Describing the YSRCP government 'anti-Dalit', the former chief minister said though several atrocities had taken place across the state in the past 15 months, the Chief Minister was not opening his mouth to condemn the incidents. This was emboldening the miscreants to target and exploit Dalits more and more, the TDP chief said.

Stating that the Dalits enjoyed rights and liberties under the TDP regime, Naidu asked as to why the Jagan regime was maintaining an unusual silence on the heinous crimes like the gang-rape of a 16-year-old Dalit girl by 12 members.

BJP warns of agitation if attacks on temples continue

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Rajamahendravaram: BJP state president Somu Veerraju warned the state government that the party along with its alliance partner Jana Sena Party (JSP) will launch an agitation if attacks on Hindu temples and institutions continued.

He participated in a protest held at the sub-collector's office here on Friday, demanding the release of Hindu activists who were arrested at Antervedi during a protest two days ago.

Later, speaking to reporters, Veerraju said their two parties cannot be a mere spectators if any one tries to grab lands, properties of temples and other Hindu institutions.

"Why the government has tried to sell Simhachalam temple lands and TTD lands hurt-

- Party state chief says BJP and Jana Sena will fight jointly if anyone tries to grab lands and properties of temples and other Hindu institutions
- Questions the govt's attempts to sell Simhachalam and TTD lands
- Questions govt attempts to sell Simhachalam and TTD lands



BJP State president Somu Veerraju participating in a dharna at the Sub-Collector's office in Rajamahendravaram on Friday

ing the sentiments of lakhs of people?" he said..

Claiming that the state government had ordered CBI inquiry into chariot burning incident at Antervedi only because of protests by BJP and JSP, he said the government should not keep quiet by just handing over the case to the Central investigation agency.

The state BJP said the attitude of YSRCP government was provoking Hindu community and alleged that activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), BJP and other organisations were being arrested without a proper reason.

He said the government arrested some persons immediately after an incident of stone throwing at a church but has not arrested a single person so far in connection with chariot burning.

Govt extends ban on Maoists

Amaravati: The state government on Friday issued a notification extending the ban on CPI (Maoist) for a further period of one year.

It also extended the ban on the CPI (Maoist) purported frontal organisations like Radical Youth League, Rythu Coolie Sangham, Revolutionary Democratic Front, Radical Students Union, Viplava Karmika Samakhya and others.

The ban on these organisations was first imposed in 2005 after peace talks with the then People's War Group failed.

Ever since, the ban is being renewed every year under the Andhra Pradesh Public Security Act, 1992.

"The government reviewed the matter and is of the opinion that the Communist Party of India (Maoist) is continuing to indulge in unlawful activities and its unlawful activities, if not stopped, will constitute a serious danger and menace to public order, peace and tranquility," chief secretary Nilam Sawhney said in an order.

AP tops in developing 'chance fingerprints' from crime scenes

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh police department has emerged number one in the country when it comes to developing 'chance fingerprints' from crime scenes and also identifying 'chance fingerprints cases', according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

"The force stood first in the country when it comes to developing 'chance fingerprints' from the scenes of crime as well as identifying 'chance print cases' for the year 2019-2020," said an official.

In the assessed year, the state successfully developed 9,418 chance finger prints, leading over all other states in the country.

Kerala stood second, managing to develop 7,687 chance fingerprints.

Similarly, Andhra Pradesh has also topped the list in identifying 'chance fingerprint cases' with 512 instances, 233 more cases than Punjab which managed to identify 279 to emerge as the second best state.

According to the NCRB, the

- According to NCRB, the state stands in 1st place in the country in identifying 'chance fingerprints'
- In 2019-20, the state successfully developed 9,418, pipping all other states in the country, while Kerala stood in 2nd place
- In identifying 'chance fingerprint cases' too, AP tops in the country with 512 instances followed by Punjab



main responsibility of fingerprint experts is to develop chance prints left by criminals at the crime scene to match them with the data bank of existing criminals' fingerprints.

"The main responsibility of fingerprint experts is to develop the 'chance prints' left by criminals at the crime scene and to match the same with the fingerprints of known criminals," the NCRB report noted.

Incidentally, Andhra Pradesh managed to achieve this feat even though the police department was working with fewer number of fingerprint experts

than the sanctioned number.

In order to recover fingerprints from the crime scene, it is crucial to cordon off the crime scene, following the best protocols to ensure that the crime is not tampered with.

"Despite working with fewer fingerprint experts as the report suggests, the state stood first in the country in terms of both developing chance fingerprints and identifying chance prints cases speaks volumes about the competence and efficiency of the Andhra Pradesh police," observed state's senior CID officer P V Sunil Kumar.

COVID GUIDELINES

Team of 5 take part in 2,000-km car rally to educate rural people

VASU POTNURU

Visakhapatnam: When a team of five volunteers decided to educate the rural people about the importance of maintaining social distance, wearing masks and keeping a tab on coronavirus symptoms, they embarked on a car rally.

Packing sacks of sanitisers, masks and pamphlets, members of Hima Humanitarian Association have set out on a 2,000-km drive from Visakhapatnam to Chittoor and back to Visakhapatnam with the support of Simhadri TMT.

At a time when people are reluctant to plan for a journey, T V D Das, founder-general secretary of the 29-year-old Hima Humanitarian Association, says that they wanted to meet those residing in nondescript villages and create awareness about Covid-19. "Comparatively, people staying in villages are less aware of the coronavirus precautions. We wanted to bring change to society through our rally," he explains.

Travelling across Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Anaka-



Members of Hima Humanitarian Association distributing pamphlets and masks during their car rally to create awareness on coronavirus in Tirupati

palle, Narsipatnam, Chodavaram, Tuni, Rajamahendravaram, Vijayawada, Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor and Vijayawada in two cars, the five-member team reached Visakhapatnam, concluding their nine-day-long expedition on Thursday.

The team basically targeted crowded places in various locations. "About 50,000 pamphlets listing Covid-19 precautions and 20,000 masks were given away to people apart from sharing the safety protocols through mic in crowded areas," adds Das.

Along with Das, S Ranjith Kumar, P Ramakrishna, B N Murthy and J K Nayak participated in the expedition.

As a part of the endeavour, they also met Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivas, YSRCP MP Mopidevi Venkata Ramana and Irrigation Minister P Anil Kumar Yadav, among others. The association conducted various medical camps in rural pockets. Next, the team plans to give away Covid kits to the cops in police stations across Visakhapatnam.

China sets up military base at Finger 5 of Pangong Lake

Continued from P1

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there hasn't been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

On June 15, as many as 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley. Chinese aggression started increasing along the Line of Actual Control and more particularly in Galwan Valley since May 5. The Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kugrang Nala, Gogra and north bank of Pangong lake on May 17 and May 18.

Aiyo Rama! Fraudsters use fake cheques to draw ₹6 lakh from Ram temple trust

Continued from P1

Ayodhya DIG Deepak Kumar told PTI that an FIR has been lodged at the Kotwali police station here in this regard and investigation is being done. "We have seized the account in which the fund has been transferred. Four lakh rupees from the account have been withdrawn but two lakhs rupees are still there," he said.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Railway will link all NE state capitals, B'desh

“The Indian Railways are working on connecting capitals of all eight northeastern states and also executing a project to link up with Bangladesh's railway networks to facilitate communication with other parts of India via the neighbouring country

- Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal**



MOODY'S TAKE

GDP will contract 11.5% this fiscal

Moody's Investors Service on Friday slashed India's growth projection for the current fiscal to (-) 11.5%, from (-) 4% estimated earlier. It said India's credit profile is increasingly constrained by low growth, high debt burden and weak financial system. These risks have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.95	South	
Euro	91.38	African Rand	5.04
UAE Dirham	22.02	Hong Kong Dollar	10.91
Thai Baht	2.7	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.12	New Zealand Dollar	51.53
Australian Dollar	56.27	Saudi Riyal	21.57
Canadian Dollar	58.62	Swedish Krona	9.64
Swiss Franc	84.05	Singapore Dollar	56.5

DELHI SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Hrithik endorses Arrow brand

Hyderabad: Arrow, the American menswear brand from Arvind Fashions Limited, announced film actor Hrithik Roshan as brand ambassador and kicked off its campaign 'On Top of the World' featuring the actor. This announcement comes ahead of the brand's big city expansion plans and launch of 25 new 'New York' styled fashion stores. Shailesh Chaturvedi, Managing Director and CEO, PVH brands, Arvind, said, "With our emphasis on glamorizing Arrow brand further with this powerful campaign, we are seeing a large growth opportunity in big metro cities. Hrithik has a vital social media reach of nearly 8 crore people that will spur demand and excite our consumers to visit our remodelled stores, which reflect the glamorous New York spirit with a distinct art deco look".

Vestige's new products

Hyderabad: Vestige Marketing Pvt Ltd, a homegrown direct selling company, has expanded its personal care category by venturing into the natural personal care segment with the launch of the new brand, Assure Natural recently. In this category, the company has launched six more new products including body cream and mud mask. Gautam Bali, Managing Director, Vestige Marketing, said, "Assured Natural has made a mark in the personal care segment in India. These products created a lot of anticipation among the customers and distributors and we witnessed a manifold increase in sales in our personal care business in these last two months. We are confident that the new range of products will also become the preferred choice for our customers, and we will continue to launch exciting products in the India market that are best suited for it."

Industrial output shrinks 10.4% as Covid takes toll

Capital goods, manufacturing, mining, power generation worst hit in July

New Delhi: Industrial production shrank by 10.4 per cent in July year-on-year, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors, official data showed on Friday. However, it improved sequentially from June when it contracted by 15.77 per cent.

Explaining the reasons behind the fall in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said a large number of industrial units were not operating from the end of March due to the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19.

"This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the period of lockdown," it said in a statement.

It further said industrial activity is resuming with the lifting of restrictions. The ministry added that it "may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post



- Fall in June IIP revised to -15.77%
- Output of capital goods falls 22.8%
- Mfg sector declines 11.1% in July
- Mining sector output registers 13%

pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid 19 pandemic."

However, it said the index for the month of July 2020 stands at 118.1 as compared to 108.9 in June, 89.5 in May and 54 in April.

According to the IIP data, fac-

tory output had registered a growth of 4.9 per cent in July 2019. Meanwhile, the fall in IIP for June has been revised to (-) 15.77 per cent from the provisional estimates of 16.6 per cent contraction released last month. As per the data, manufacturing

sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the IIP, recorded a decline of 11.1 per cent in July as against a growth of 4.8 per cent in same month last year.

Similarly, mining sector output fell 13 per cent in July as against a growth of 4.9 per cent earlier. Power generation shrank by 2.5 per cent as against a growth of 5.2 per cent a year ago.

Output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, fell by 22.8 per cent in July as against a contraction of 7 per cent a year ago. Consumer durables output also declined by 23.6 per cent, as against a contraction of 2.4 per cent in July 2019.

Consumer non-durable goods production grew by 6.7 per cent, as compared to a growth of 8.5 per cent a year ago. The IIP for April-July period has contracted by 29.2 per cent, according to the data. It had registered a growth of 3.5 per cent during the same period last fiscal. (PTI)

Domestic car sales zoom 14% in Aug



First positive growth in domestic passenger vehicle sales since Oct 2019

New Delhi: Low base along with initial upsurge in demand due to the festive season boosted domestic passenger vehicles' sales in August on a year-on-year basis. This is the first time since October 2019, that passenger vehicles' sales stood in the positive territory on a YoY basis.

According to industry data released on Friday, a total of 2,15,916 passenger vehicles were sold in the domestic market, representing a rise of 14.16 per cent from 1,89,129 units off-take during the like period of 2019.

Similarly, the data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) showed a sequential growth in sales during August. In July, the domestic passenger vehicles' sales had declined by 3.86 per cent to 1,82,779 units from 1,90,115 units sold

during the corresponding month of the previous year.

Besides, the data showed that car sales in the country rose by 14.13 per cent to 1,24,715 units in August, compared with 1,09,277 units during the year-ago period.

As per SIAM, the data does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors.

In terms of utility vehicles, sales grew by 15.54 per cent to 81,842, whereas vans' off-take went down by 3.82 per cent to 9,359 units against the same month a year ago.

"After a period of lull owing to the Covid-19 imposed lockdowns, the month of August 2020 has witnessed improvement in the sales figures of two-wheelers and passenger vehicles," said SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon.

Tupperware opens outlet in AP

Hyderabad:

Tupperware, a US-based home-ware and direct selling brand, opened its exclusive branded outlet in Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. It is the second exclusive outlet for the brand in that State. With this new outlet, the national count of Tupperware in India has reached 60.

Deepak Chhabra, Managing Director, Tupperware India, said, "Tupperware offers products that are experiential in nature. While our consumers trust us completely for the quality, they wish to touch and feel the product and review a diverse range of product categories, so they understand the functionality better and embrace its innovative design and utilise it to its full potential. This can best be done in a brick and mortar medium of retail sales".



Markets end flat amid mixed global cues

Mumbai: Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note on Friday amid lack of fresh buying triggers and mixed global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 14.23 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 38,854.55. The broader NSE Nifty rose 15.20 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 11,464.45.

SBI was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 2.30 per cent, followed by TCS, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Kotak Bank, Titan and Infosys. On the other hand, IndusInd

Bank, PowerGrid, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank were among the laggards, dropping up to 1.71 per cent. During the week, the Sensex advanced 497.37 points or 1.29 per cent, while the Nifty rose 130.60 points or 1.15 per cent. "Indian benchmark indices ended flat, with a slight positive bias, undecided on the direction to take. Inspite of mixed global cues, Indian markets held out from going negative, after progress was supposed to be made during the talks to defuse border tensions with China."

Adani Green Q1 net at ₹22 cr

Hyderabad: Adani Green Energy on Friday posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 21.75 crore for June quarter mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had a net loss of Rs 97.44 crore in April-June 2019-20.

Total income rose to Rs 878.14 crore in April-June 2020-21 from Rs 675.23 crore in the same period last year. The net export (of electricity) increased to 1,382 million units in the first quarter, up 24 per cent from the year-ago period.

The firm is in the business of renewable energy. "The Group (firm) has



served all the debts obligations during the quarter without opting for moratorium as directed by Reserve Bank of India for interest and principal instalments falling due to banks and other financial institutions/lenders," the company said in a statement. About the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, it said: "the management believes that the impact of this outbreak on the business

and financial position of the Group is not significant."

Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Green Energy, said: "The growing domestic and international demand for cleaner and greener technology, has accelerated the green energy transition in the country and we are prepared to lead this change."

"Today, sustainability and economy go hand in hand and as such the goals of the organization must be aligned with the needs of the nation. The definitive steps taken by us in this journey are calculated to meet our ESG goals at each turn," he added.

REAL CORNER

Realty players bullish on commercial space

Expect at least 28-30 million sq ft commercial space absorption this year across India

Despite the coronavirus pandemic hitting demand for office spaces significantly, realty players are bullish about the segment and expect at least 28-30 million sq ft commercial space absorption this year.

According to the industry experts, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the overall business sentiment but the demand for office space will revive as the country slowly comes out of the lockdown.

They estimated a 28-30 million sq ft of absorption in 2020, which is nearly 40 per cent lower than the record absorption of over 49 million sq ft in 2019.

"There will be a demand bounce back. Currently, things

are moving slow but may be next year, we will see the momentum picking up," Mindspace Business Parks REIT CEO Vinod Rohira said during a virtual real estate summit organised by CII.

RMZ Corporate Chairman Raj Menda said the demand will come back once the government opens up international travel as the capital intensive decisions of investing in commercial space come from the headoffice.

JLL Country Head and CEO Ramesh Nair said data privacy continues to be a big worry while working from home.

Echoing similar views, Embassy Office Parks CEO Mike Holland said issue of business continuity, safety, security and governance will drive the demand for office space.

The industry experts, however, noted that only 10-15 per cent of the workforce in offices have returned so far. Credai National



Experts are also expecting consolidation in the commercial space as financing will continue to be a challenge with banks still being reluctant to fund

President Satish Magar noted that once the Covid-19 curve flattens, people will want to come back to offices to work.

Lodha Group MD and CEO Abhishek Lodha said that supported by government policy and low interest rates, India's housing, office and logistics markets will see significant growth in the years to go.

Crisis-hit realty firms offer discounts to rev up sales

Discounts on offer in Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai and other cities

Faced with slump in housing sales due to the Covid-19 pandemic, real estate developers in Bengaluru, Mumbai and other cities are adopting various marketing strategies to lure prospective homebuyers including cash discounts, waiver in stamp duty or GST, free car parking, attractive payment plans, assured rents and other freebies.

The cash discounts have helped developers to some extent in selling their inventories during this Covid-19 period and they are likely to continue with such offers in the upcoming festive season, which accounts for maximum sales in a year.

In the first quarter of this financial year, Godrej Properties probably set the trend by offering 10:90 scheme in its ongoing projects where a prospective buyer needs to pay 10 per cent initially and the rest 90 per cent on possession. This scheme helped company a lot in achieving over Rs 1,500 crore of sales bookings despite the pandemic.

Bengaluru-based Embassy Group is also offering a 10:90 scheme (pay 10 per cent now and 90 per cent on possession) as well as assured rent in some of its residential projects.

Taking cue from the Maharashtra government's decision to cut stamp duty till March next year,



Sales of residential properties fell 52 per cent to 88,593 units across eight cities including Hyderabad during January-June period this year. Many developers have reported a revival in sales during July and August

industry body Naredco's Maharashtra chapter recently announced that it would bear stamp duty on behalf of the customers in almost 1,000 projects being developed by its members.

Property consultant Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said the swathe of offers and schemes currently being offered by the developers are quite varied in scope and approach.

"Our reading is that many of these schemes and offers are meeting with success to some degree or the other," he added.

Without naming the developers, the property consultant firm listed out various offers available in the market - pay 10 per cent now and nothing for 2 years; pay only down payment and move in, while EMI starts after 12 months from the date of booking; pay 10 per cent now and 90 per cent at possession;

15 per cent special discount during the festive season.

Anarock said that other incentives being offered are - book now and get free car parking on each booking; get 7 per cent cash discount.

In the Pune market, the builders are offering Rs 10-15 lakh cash discount - cash discount of Rs 6.9 lakh and no GST impact of Rs 4.09 lakh.

A developer in Chennai is offering free registration and modular kitchen, if property is booked before September 27, while another is committing an assured rent of Rs 25,000 per month for one year, according to Anarock.

Mani Rangarajan, chief operating officer of Housing.com and PropTiger.com, said a number of developers roll out festive season offers to drive incremental sales every year and 2020 is not an ex-

ception. Gaurs Group said it is offering relaxed payment plan in one of its commercial projects and free gifts such as laptop, washing machine, mobile phone, microwave, video doorbell, refrigerator and chimney in some housing projects.

Ajuna India Ltd is offering differentiated payment plans to its customers across various projects. Mumbai-based Wadhwa Group is offering payment of 10 per cent now and the rest later in their ready-to-move-in projects.

Vijay Khetan group in its project Krishna Residences at Andheri East, Mumbai, is asking homebuyer to just pay Rs 1 as a token amount along with two per cent stamp duty and the EMI will begin after a year.

According to PropTiger data, sales of residential properties fell 52 per cent to 88,593 units across eight cities during January-June period this year.

Many developers have reported a revival in sales during July and August. Mumbai-based Lodha group sold properties worth Rs 1,167 crore during July-August. M3M group reported sales bookings of Rs 1,150 crore in the last two months.

Investors Clinic founder Honey Katyal said, "The Covid-19 pandemic has hit the real estate sector badly." (PTI)

Housing finance collections reach 85-90%

While disbursements in the housing finance sector are at 60-70 per cent of year-on-year levels, they are expected to reach 85-100 per cent of prior-year levels in 2HFY21, a recent report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL) stated. This was based on analysis done by MOFSL on the

NBFC sector at large. The sector has witnessed a meaningful number of equity capital raises in the past two months. Most companies have raised money largely in order to reduce leverage rather than as 'repair capital'.

Overall collection efficiency was at 85-90 per cent for af-

fordable housing across financiers in August 2020. Given that no large-scale lay-offs or pay-cuts have been implemented by companies, the situation is manageable, it said. In South India, construction activity is almost back at pre-Covid levels, while in north India, it is at 80 per cent of earlier levels.

Hyderabad gets makeover as corona keeps people indoors

MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao says works to the tune of Rs 6,000 crore under Strategic Road Development Project have been completed in GHMC

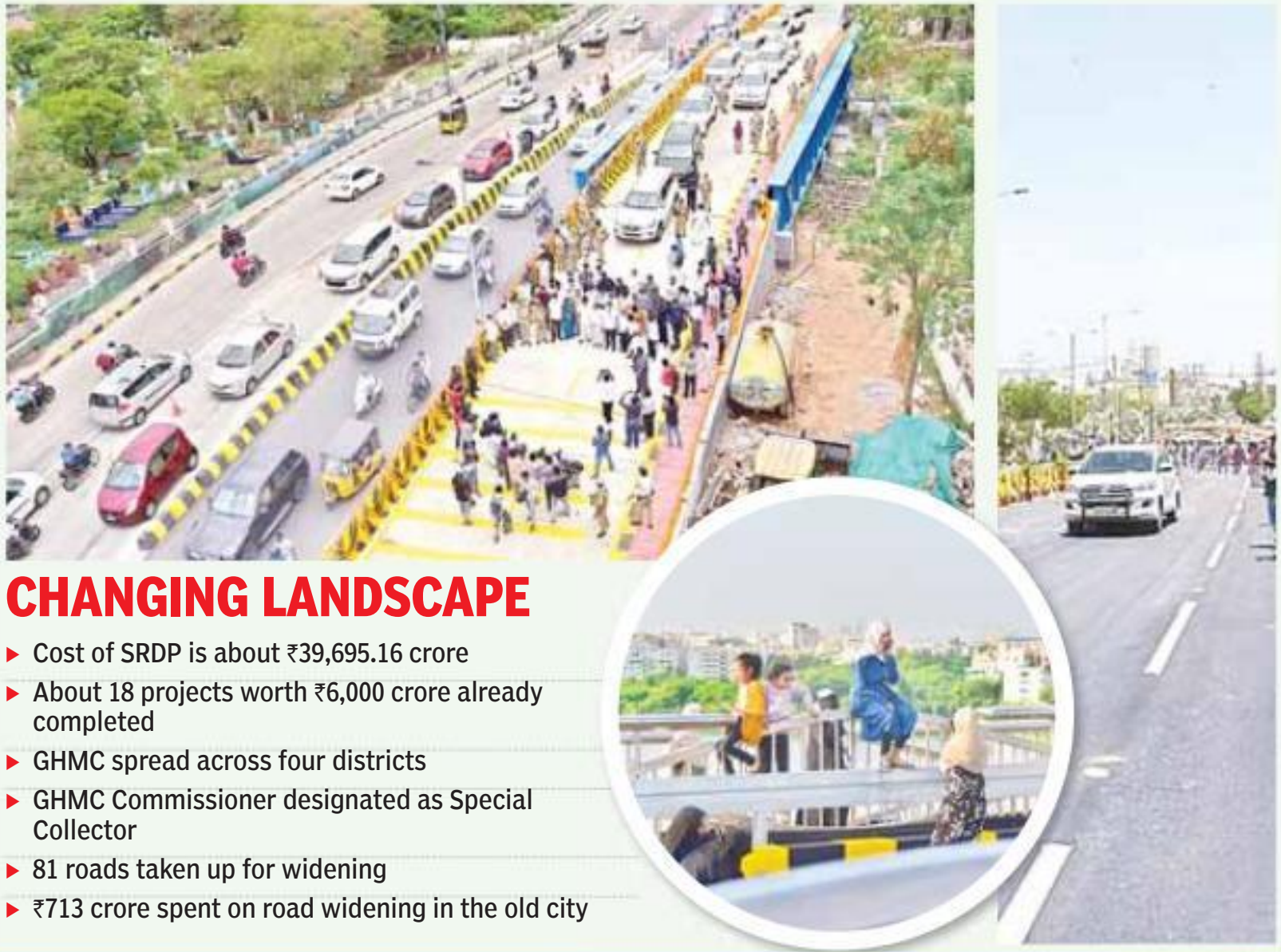
HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Even as over 12 million people in the State capital are literally held up inside four walls of their houses due to unsparing attack of novel coronavirus, Hyderabad seems to be undergoing a silent makeover as several of its infrastructural initiatives are being done at a fast pace. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao on Friday said that works to the tune of Rs 6,000 crore under Strategic Road Development Project (SRDP) were completed in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

The Minister was replying to questions on SRDP works in the city raised by TRS member Arikepudi Gandhi and others during the Question Hour in the Assembly. The Minister said that the size of the SRDP was about Rs 39,695.16 crore. About 18 project works taken up with Rs 6,000 crore were already completed and were being used by the citizens.

Minister said that the GHMC is spread across four districts Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri, administered by respective District Collectors. "For better coordination in the ongoing works, the government has introduced a reform where the GHMC Commissioner is designated as the Special Collector for land acquisition," said the Minister.

Minister said the city had been facing a gridlock with lakhs of ve-



CHANGING LANDSCAPE

- Cost of SRDP is about ₹39,695.16 crore
- About 18 projects worth ₹6,000 crore already completed
- GHMC spread across four districts
- GHMC Commissioner designated as Special Collector
- 81 roads taken up for widening
- ₹713 crore spent on road widening in the old city

hicles coming onto the road every year, hence the government was promoting public transport in Hyderabad city to resolve the problem. The government took the service of Lee Associates, which gave a comprehensive report after surveying for two years.

Replying to a question raised by AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, the Minister further said that SRDP projects were also un-

derway in the old city and 25 per cent of the funds were spent on old city developments. He said that 81 roads were taken up for widening and out of these 44 were completed.

The Minister said Rs 713 crore were spent on road widening works in the old city. Out of this, Rs 477 crore was allocated for general roads, Rs 228 crore for SRDP, and Rs 8 crore for missing

link roads. He assured the MIM leader of have a meeting with the MLAs from the old city.

Rama Rao said that the GHMC saved about Rs 568 crore by implementing the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) scheme. He also said that for the first time in the country, the TDR scheme was introduced and had helped speed up the acquisition of land for road widening.

KCR to review Yadadri temple works today

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will visit the famous Yadadri temple on Saturday and review its renovation works which are nearing completion with the authorities. State government has taken up the task of upgradation of entire Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swami temple complex with an aim to project the place of worship as one of the favourite destinations for Hindu devotees in the country.

According to official sources, the Chief Minister will hold a meeting with temple authorities and local officials on the progress in the works, especially the completion of main temple.

Chandrashekar Rao is likely to announce some decisions with regard to the temple development and the conduct of a big yagnam after the completion of works.

ENCROACHMENT OF WAQF, ENDOWMENT LANDS

MIM wants govt to bring land grabbers to book

MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi requests the government to give one last opportunity to people who are having notarised documents for registration of their plots

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi demanded the State government to take stringent action against those who encroached upon the Endowments and Waqf lands, and also lock the lands under these two departments to ensure no registration takes place.

Speaking during the discussion on the new Revenue Bill in the Assembly on Friday, the MIM leader expressed serious concern over increasing encroachment of lands owned by the state Endowments department, temple trusts and Waqf board. He urged Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to put an end to the registration of Waqf and endowment lands and to take stringent action against officials involved in transfer of such lands.

Owaisi said that Muslims were the biggest losers during the successive land reforms in the country. "Muslims had to lose lands under Jagir Abolition Act, Inam Abolition Act, Urban Land Ceiling Act

etc," he reminded, adding that there was a Supreme Court judgement that institutional Inams and institutional Waqf lands were exempted from the Acts. He said during an initial survey, 70,000 acres of Waqf lands were identified and another 30,000 acres were identified in the second survey. The MIM leader requested the government to give one last opportunity to the people who were having notarised documents for registration of their plots. He wanted the government to collect only nominal fee for the regularisation of lands and buildings in view of steep fall in the incomes of people due to coronavirus pandemic.

Hailing the Chief Minister for bringing in a strong new revenue act, the MIM leader also suggested the creation of Green Zones in Greater Hyderabad, which was growing at a faster pace. He also applauded Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao for taking up several measures for the development of Hyderabad as a global city.

Ministers gung-ho about Revenue Act, eulogises CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Stating that Friday was a historical day, State Ministers said that the new Revenue Act provided security to the weaker sections for their lands.

Ministers V Srinivas Goud, K Eshwar, Satyavathi Rathod and P Ajay hailed Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for bringing such an Act. Srinivas Goud said the new Act would put an end to evil practices like family disputes for lands. He said a few Opposition party leaders were politicising the issue because they were afraid that Chandrashekar Rao would get good name with this new Act. "The digital survey of lands is a great initiative. This is employee-friendly government, and employees are not removed even after changing the Act. The job security to VRAs is a proof that it is an employee-friendly government," said Goud.

Satyavathi Rathod thanked the Chief Minister for stating that the Podu lands issue would also be solved. She said the new Act was brought after it was noticed that the people were facing problems as some leaders were misusing powers. At a time when the MROs were having apprehensions over their future, the Chief Minister ensured they were given the responsibility of sub-registrar, she said.

K Eshwar said that no State in the country has dared to bring a Revenue Act like Telangana. The new Act would benefit the poor and the common man. As the farmers were facing many problems, the Chief Minister made efforts for three years to bring out a comprehensive new Act, he added.

Star hotel employee held for harassing ex-girlfriend

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Raidurgam police on Friday detained an F&B executive of Raddison Hotel for allegedly sharing pictures of his former girlfriend who currently works as an airhostess.

According to the police, the victim filed a complaint alleging that the accused person was sharing their old pictures on social media and WhatsApp groups because she was getting married to another person.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered, and the prelimi-

nary investigations revealed that the accused and the victim were classmates while studying at Frankfinn Institute of Airhostess in Kukatpally in 2013. As their bond grew towards each other, they started dating each other and were in a relationship, but their relationship did not end well and they parted ways, said the police.

The victim recently posted pictures on her Facebook account stating that she got engaged and was about to get married. Meanwhile, old pictures of her along with the accused surfaced online

and it also reached the victim's fiancé which further damaged her reputation. Unable to bear the humiliation the woman filed a complaint against the executive of the hotel, said Inspector S Ravinder.

He noted, "Based on the complaint, we registered a case against the hotel employee for harassment and he was detained on Friday for further questioning. Currently the investigation is going on and once it is completed, he will be booked under relevant Sections of IPC and will be remanded to judicial custody."

Cong hails Revenue Bill, points out loopholes

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao clarifies many of CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's apprehensions

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Congress, while welcoming the reforms taken up by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government in the form of new Revenue Bill, stated that the draft Bill had shortcomings that should be addressed to expect the desired results. Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka spoke at length during the debate on the Bill in Assembly on Friday.

He said the digitisation of land records had its advantages, but there was a danger of the Dharani website being hacked and tampering of records to change the names of owners. Hence, care should be taken to enter all records manually also, he stressed.

Vikramarka also spoke about the comprehensive land survey that was taken up by the government few years. He said more than 16,000 unresolved cases under the B category, which contributes to 15 per cent of lands in the State, were still pending. He wanted to know from the government how they would solve these

cases when passbooks will be issued, and records entered on the website.

Further, he said that non-cultivable lands and non-agriculture lands in villages were not entered in records, as they were not entitled to get Rythu Bandhu. "These are pattalands and the property owners are concerned as their pleas for passbooks have fell on deaf ears all these while," he said and requested the government to look into the issue. Further, he said that assigned lands that were handed over to Dalits and Tribals several decades ago and in their possession since then were being taken forcefully for construction of Rythu Samanvaya Samithi offices, Vaikunta Dhamams, parks as well as for Irrigation projects and canals. Why only Dalits and Tribal lands are being taken away not touching others in the village, he questioned.

Despite Jamabandhis being held in villages by RDOs and other senior officials every year, there are still scores of land disputes. If the existing system is scrapped even before completion of the survey and

updating of records, the road ahead would be very difficult. MROs cannot visit each village and resolve land disputes, Bhatti felt.

Further, he said 2 lakh Sadabainama cases were still pending and had to be addressed. Bhatti suggested that the government choose a public software agency, Central or State, to allot running of the Dharani website as private firms can leave the job midway which happened in case of a government project in Karnataka.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao tried to clarify a few points raised by Bhatti interrupting his speech twice. He said that 16,000 pending applications of B category under land survey scheme would be resolved by constituting fast track tribunals in a set period of time. As regards the scrapping of VROs, he said that the government had to take the decision because of graft complaints from the public in villages. He, however, assured that the government would take alternative measures to ensure land survey and other initiatives are not affected.

TS introduces crop booking system

State government will be taking up suitable action to create awareness among farmers on the issue through Rythu Vedikas

- As part of the new scheme, each cluster of 5,000 acres would be monitored season-wise and crop-wise

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: State Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy said millers and traders from the State have been exporting rice, fruits and other agriculture products to the countries like Dubai, Asiatic and African countries.

However, to export agriculture products to the countries like the USA, European Union and Australia, there needs a slew of actions to ensure that the products exported are within the permissible parameters.

Farmers need to be encouraged to reduce chemical-intensive crop cultivation and adopt organic farming. To ensure the chemical residues in the exported agri products are not present or minimal. For this, the Centre has to come up with necessary guidelines and action plans to incentivise farmers to take up organic farming in a big way to boost exports.

The State government will also be taking up suitable action to create awareness among the farmers on the issue through Rythu Vedika's. Niranjan Reddy said each cluster of 5,000 acres will



have a Rythu Vedika where farmers will be provided training, information and awareness through audio, video, digital and live events of demonstrations. The Rythu Vedika's can help gather about 300 to 350 farmers at any day to meet and discuss various issues, he added.

Reddy admitted that the State is lagging behind in the production of coriander and curry leaf crops, however, said the State has enough or even production in 9 out of 21 vegetable varieties consumed daily. In another 11 varieties, the shortfall is on account of different reasons like climate and others. Steps have been taken to create farmers on growing short term crops.

Reddy also said that the State has introduced the crop

booking system. As part of the new scheme, each cluster of 5,000 acres would be monitored season-wise and crop-wise. The crop yield data collected would help the supply side against the demand forecasting of the State. Also, it would help to facilitate provide suitable marketing and stock up the reserves to meet the consumption needs of Telangana. Unlike in any other State, Telangana is cultivating crops in an extent of 1.31 crore acres.

Specifically, farmers are cultivating the Telangana varieties of Sona in an extent of 10 lakh acres. Besides, farmers have come forward in a big way cooperating for the regulated agricultural cultivation, he added.

TS High Court orders govt land survey in Gandhamguda

Hears petitions regarding a dispute over 322 guntas of government land in survey number 43 of Gandhamguda village in Gandipet Mandal of Ranga Reddy district

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad: A division bench of High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A Abhishek Reddy, on Friday, heard a PIL and a tag of seven individual writ petitions regarding a dispute over 322 guntas of government land in survey number 43 of Gandhamguda village in Gandipet Mandal of Ranga Reddy district.

Chief Justice Chauhan pointed out that the court has directed the government to carry out a survey of the entire land in the presence of the petitioners. The entire case is about the land falling in survey number 43 that happens to be the government land. The petitioners claimed that their lands either fall under survey number 42 or under survey number 46, but not under survey number 43. They claimed that they have nothing to do with land under survey number 43 and yet notices have been issued to them and they have



LEGAL NOTES

been dispossessed from their peaceful possession. Therefore, they are before this court, CJ stated.

The court ordered the government to find the owners of those vacant plots and issue a notice to owners. And if the owner was not a resident of Hyderabad, issue a newspaper publication, and do not disturb the peaceful possession of the petitioners.

The High Court directed the State government that it is imperative that a joint survey will be conducted by the revenue department, but in the presence of the petitioners and in the presence of landowners.

Standing Counsel for Revenue Department Bhaskar Reddy requested the Court two months of time to carry out the joint survey.

The Court directed to issue notices to the petitioners at the addresses shown by in the cause title by the individual writ petitions and notices to their Counsels. The Revenue Department is further directed to locate the landowners of the vacant plots and to ensure that notices are duly served on them. The landowners and petitioners shall be informed that they can find for holding on the joint survey.

The CJ bench directed the petitioners to be present on the said date and time in the subject property along with their counsel. The joint survey report shall be submitted by the revenue department to the Court on or before the November 16, 2020. The copy of the joint survey report shall also be furnished to the counsel for the petitioner. The court adjourned the matter to November 20.

SA Olympic body suspends CSA, takes control of cricket

Johannesburg (IANS): South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), which is the controlling body for all high-performance sport in the country, has instructed Cricket South Africa's board and senior executives to step down.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, CSA members -- including acting CEO Kgandrie Govender, company secretary Welsh Gwaza and acting chief commercial officer Thami Mthembu -- will no longer be involved in the day-to-day running of the cricket body and SASCOC will now appoint a task team to conduct an investigation into the affairs at CSA.

The panel will make findings and recommendations to SASCOC and CSA's Members' Council within one month of the finalisation of the members of the task team.

It is reported that the SASCOC took the decision unanimously at a board meeting on Tuesday because of what it said are "the many instances of maladministration and malpractice," at CSA



which "has brought cricket into disrepute".

Last month, CSA had terminated its former CEO Thabang Moroe, almost nine months after he was suspended in December 2019. Moroe was fired on the basis of a forensic report which revealed "acts of serious misconduct". However, the CSA has not made the report available publicly or to SASCOC.

The move of SASCOC taking control over the CSA could fall foul of the ICC's rules on government interference and lead to the national team being kicked out



of the game at international level.

In a statement, CSA has however said that "it does not agree with the resolution taken by SASCOC and has not had the opportunity to engage with SASCOC on various issues raised in the communication".

"...CSA is taking legal advice regarding the basis on which SASCOC has sought to intervene in the business affairs of CSA. CSA does, however, commit to engaging further with SASCOC to understand its position and to find common ground with it in the best interests of cricket," the

statement read. "The Members' Council and the Directors of the Board of CSA will hold a joint workshop this weekend to discuss critical matters," it added.

The development leaves cricket in South Africa at an uncertain juncture, with no fixtures finalised for the coming season which is due to start imminently after the Covid-19 hiatus.

It is believed that this will not affect South African players' participation at the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) or other competitions.



San Marino: The starting block for MotoGP's vital period

San Marino (Italy): After a well-earned two-week break, the MotoGP World Championship riders are back as the paddock gets set for a gruelling nine races in 11 weeks. The Gran Premio Lenovo di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini signals the start of a vital period in 2020 and in the pre-event Press Conference, Championship leader Fabio Quartararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT) was joined by Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team), Valentino Rossi (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP), Styrian GP winner Miguel Oliveira (Red Bull KTM Tech3), the returning Francesco Bagnaia (Pramac Racing) and MotoGP World Championship leader Luca Marini (SKY Racing Team VR46). Plenty of topics were touched upon as always, but one of the major talking points was the upcoming set of races that are so close together. Nine weekends in the next 11 sees the Misano double-header become an incredibly vital couple of races for the Championship. Arguably, alongside the Catalan GP in two weeks, these next three weekends could be the most pivotal in terms of deciphering who really is in the title hunt.



US OPEN

Azarenka ousts Williams, to face Osaka in title clash

New York (IANS): Former World No.1 Victoria Azarenka has entered the final of the ongoing US Open after coming from a set down to surprise rival Serena Williams and book a summit clash with 2018 champion Naomi Osaka. In a pulsating semi-final match at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday, Azarenka defeated Williams 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 after one hour and 55 minutes to reach her third US Open final.

"Seven is my favourite number, so I guess it's meant to be," Azarenka noted, joking about the gap between major final appearances during her on-court interview as per the WTA website. "I'm very grateful for this opportunity, to be able to play such a champion in a semifinal. The road to the final requires you to beat the best players, and today was definitely that day."

"Hopefully this inspires

women to go after their dreams. I feel like you can't always identify yourself as just one thing, because we have many things we can do in our lives.

"A parent is the most important thing I can be in my life, but I'm also a tennis player, a fighter on the court. I want to go after my personal dreams, to inspire my child. I hope women around the world know they can do anything. Being a parent is the toughest thing, so once you can balance that, you can do anything," she added.

In the other semi-final, Osaka edged past No.28 seed Jennifer Brady in a thrilling three set contest, winning the match 7-6(1), 3-6, 6-3. The two-time Grand Slam winner matched Brady fired 35 winners to 17 unforced errors to take down the American and book her spot into the third Grand Slam final of her career.

We certainly have the talent to win a medal in Tokyo:Lilima

Bengaluru (IANS): Indian women's hockey team midfielder LilimaMinz has been one of the key members of the national side in the last few years. With over 150 international caps under her belt, Minz's rich streak of experience will be a huge advantage for the Indian team at the Olympics next year.

The team has improved leaps and bounds since Minz made her debut in 2013. The national side has competed terrifically against the top sides in the world in the last few years and the Indian team players have developed a belief that they can go on to make history in Tokyo.

"We certainly have the talent to win a medal in Tokyo. Our team has seen a steady rise since I first joined the team in 2013. I think earlier, we lacked belief in ourselves, but now, we are ready to compete against any top side in the world," said Lilima.

The 26-year-old first started off as a forward and then later moved to become a midfielder. Minz explained the reason behind the move from being in the forward line to the midfield region.

"When I had first started playing hockey, we played in a system



where we had five forwards in a team and I played as one of the wingers. Later our coach decided to move me to the midfield region because I had the stamina and endurance to go up and down constantly.

"It has been very interesting to be a midfielder because we support the forwards and defenders during matches. If we are attacking then we try to push the ball forward as much as possible and if our opponents have the momentum then we lend our support to the defenders accord-

ingly," said the hockey player from Odisha.

When asked about how she started her journey in hockey, the midfielder expressed that going for the Rourkela Panposh Sports Hostel trials changed her life.

"When I was in school, the Rourkela Panposh Sports Hostel had held trials for hockey players. Those who knew about the trials, they went for it, but since I didn't know about the trials, I was on my way out of my school," said Minz.

Ligue 1: PSG kick off title defence with shock defeat at Lens

Paris (IANS): Defending champions Paris Saint-Germain opened their Ligue 1 title defence with a shock 0-1 defeat against newly-promoted Lens.

The absence of some key players, including Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, Mauro Icardi, Angel Di Maria and Keylor Navas -- who have all tested positive for coronavirus, reduced Thomas Tuchel's choices for his starting line-up. As a result, several youngsters and new signings were brought into the squad to fill the places, reports Xinhua news agency. 18-year-olds Kays Ruiz-Atil and Arnaud Kalimuendo made their first team debuts in attack while between the posts was guarded by 20-year-old Marcin Bulka, who was making just his second appearance. Cameroon international Ignatius Ganagocapitalised on a mistake from the unlucky Bulka in the 57th minute, when PSG's third-choice goalkeeper slid a weak pass towards Marci Verratti which was intercepted by Ganago and the former Nice striker calmly pulled the trigger to send the 3,800 home fans into ecstasy.

Mumbai Indians eye 'five-star' show

New Delhi (IANS): As the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to begin from September 19, the question that fans of Mumbai Indians, the most successful team in the 12-year history of the tournament, will have could be: Will Rohit Sharma's make it five?

Mumbai Indians enter the world's most lucrative tournament as the defending champions as the 13th edition begins on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Under the brilliant leadership of Sharma, Mumbai have won trophies in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. Can they make it five in the UAE? Well, on paper, they look among the favourites, if not the favourite. Last year, Mumbai clinched their fourth IPL title with a thrilling one-run win over the Chennai Super Kings (CSK). They will look to win consecutive crowns for the first time in the IPL history.

The Sharma-led team is currently training in Dubai and they will take on Chennai in the opener at the beautiful Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

Strengths:

Mumbai have one of the best top-order batting line-up. This year, Australian Chris Lynn has been inducted into the team and he can fire at the top, possibly partnering South African wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock. And with



Sharma coming in at No.3, the Mumbai top-order could prove to any bowling attack's nightmare. MI's all-rounders are also the most important contributing factor to their strength. In Pandya brothers -- Hardik and Krunal -- and Kieron Pollard, Sharma can include the three world-class all-rounders in the XI, depending on the situation. On the other hand, Nathan Coulter-Nile, who was MI's most expensive buy in the previous IPL auction, along with West Indian Sherfane Rutherford, who was traded in, are quality back-ups even if they don't make the playing XI in all games.

Weaknesses:

Mumbai don't have good spin bowlers. Rahul Chahar and Krunal are expected to be the only two spinners who could get into the XI, but both are run-saving rather than wicket-taking options.

The team's options on the bench are Jayant Yadav and Anukul Roy. The absence of Lasith Malinga, the leading wicket-taker in IPL history, may also put more pressure on Jasprit Bumrah to deliver in hot and humid UAE. The team management has replaced Malinga with Aussie quick James Pattinson. It will be interesting to see how James Pattinson fits in.

Mumbai Indians squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Sherfane Rutherford, Suryakumar Yadav, Anmolpreet Singh, Chris Lynn, Saurabh Tiwary, Dhawal Kulkarni, Jasprit Bumrah, Mitchell McClenaghan, Rahul Chahar, Trent Boult, Mohsin Khan, Prince Balwant Rai Singh, Digvijay Deshmukh, Hardik Pandya, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Anukul Roy, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Ishan Kishan and Quinton de Kock (wicket-keepers), Aditya Tare, James Pattinson.

Yuvraj still awaiting BCCI nod for comeback, says PCA secretary

New Delhi (IANS): Yuvraj Singh and the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) are waiting for the Indian cricket boards nod that would allow the swashbuckling all-rounder to stage a comeback in domestic competitions, a year after quitting the game, PCA secretary Puneet Bali said on Friday.

Yuvraj had retired from all forms of cricket in June last year, having last turned out for India in 2017. But last month, Bali approached him to come out of retirement and mentor youngsters from Punjab, the home state of the left-hander. Yuvraj agreed to do so.

After that Yuvraj approached the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to permit him to stage a comeback to competitive cricket. The permission from the game's governing body is required as players are registered with their state associations ahead of every domestic season.

"The confirmation hasn't come. The PCA has accepted his comeback. But we are waiting for communication from



the BCCI," Bali told IANS on Friday.

Yuvraj, who was adjudged the Man of the Tournament at the 2011 World Cup, is likely to play only the T20 format for Punjab. He has been practising with youngsters from Punjab at the PCA Stadium in Mohali for some time.

In an off-season PCA camp, Yuvraj played in a few practice matches and it was at that point that Bali requested him to come out of retirement and guide the youngsters.

Yuvraj, a brilliant fielder, played 40 Tests, 304 ODIs, and 58 T20 Internationals between 2000 and 2017.

Draw against Qatar 'evolution for Indian football': Thapa

New Delhi (IANS): Anirudh Thapa, one of the mainstays in the midfield of the Indian football team, described their last year's 0-0 draw against Asian Champions Qatar in a FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifying match as an "evolution" for Indian football.

"After fifty years, this match might be labelled as the evolution of Indian football when Indian football was still developing. Stakes were high and no one expected much from us. Our performances were going unnoticed and uncovered. But holding the Asian champions at their backyard was a turnaround for Indian



football," Thapa averred in a live chat on AIFF TV.

"The result sent shock waves

in the stadium after the final whistle," he added.

"Qatari players were respect-

ful, but honestly they didn't expect us to do something which we actually did. They were shocked," Thapa maintained.

"They gave everything on the field. They tried their level-best to breach our defence but couldn't," he explained. "No other team was able to do what we did at their home ground. We didn't commit any mistake and give them a chance to hurt (us). It was a memorable night for all of us."

"No Asian team have defeated or drawn against them and obviously they went to play the Copa America to play against teams such as Argentina, Colombia and

Paraguay. We had a very good result and it was a very memorable day."

"Xavi (Hernandez) had come to watch the match and he was shocked too. His reaction was pretty much similar to the Qatari players," the ex-AIFF Academy cadet recalled. "We gave our all into that performance -- defending, passing -- everything was on point."

Qatar are currently the Asian Champions when they beat Japan 3-1 in the final of AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 to lift their maiden continental championship in February 2019.

Messi cleared by CONMEBOL to play in Argentina's opening WC qualifier

Buenos Aires (IANS): Lionel Messi will be free to play in Argentina's opening 2022 World Cup qualifier against Ecuador next month after the forward's suspension was deemed to be no longer valid, the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) has said. Messi had received a one-match ban for an altercation with Chile's Gary Medel in the Copa America third-place playoff in July last year, which Argentina won 2-1. On Thursday, CONMEBOL said the statute of limitations had elapsed after one year, meaning the 33-year-old would be available for the clash at La Bombonera in Buenos Aires on October 8. Argentina will visit Bolivia for another qualifier five days later, reports Xinhua news agency. The next edition of the FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be played in Qatar from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

Liverpool to mount Premier League title defence against Leeds United

New Delhi (IANS): Football fans around the world will be putting their game face on as the much-awaited Premier League returns for a new season. The stakes are high for defending champions Liverpool who are primed to scale the summit again as the Reds square off with newly-promoted Leeds United in the season opener on Saturday. It would be interesting to see if Jurgen Klopp's men can maintain their stride and keep the Cup at Anfield for another season. Meanwhile, Leeds United's entry into the Premier League will be an extremely elating experience as the club returns to the league after a long gap of 16-years. Marcelo Bielsa's men took the football world by storm in the 2019-2020 season and will be looking to dish out a similar performance this season too. Frank Lampard's first full-fledged season as the manager ended with Chelsea finishing at the fourth spot in Premier League's 2019-20 season.