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Visitors at Sarojini Nagar market ahead of 'Diwali' festival, in New Delhi on Monday

## Nritya Gopal Das indisposed

LUCKNOW: Mahant Nritya Gopal Das on Monday complained of chest pain and breathlessness, following which he was referred to a Lucknow hospital by doctors who attended to him in Ayodhya. The 82-year-old saint, who heads the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, will undergo cardiology check-up as soon as he is brought to the state capital. He had tested coronavirus positive in August and was hospitalised in Gurugram.

## Bombay HC dumps Arnab plea for bail

MUMBAI: In a major setback to Republic TV Managing Director and Chief Editor Arnab Goswami, the Bombay High Court on Monday rejected his interim bail plea and asked him to apply for regular bail before the trial court. A division bench of Justice SS Shinde and Justice M.S. Karnik asked him to file for regular bail under Section 439 of the CrPc with the Alibaug court and directed that it should be decided on merits within four days, "without being influenced by observations" by the HC's observations. ►P3

## NCB raids Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal

MUMBAI: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Monday raided the premises of Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal and was carrying out searches, official sources said. According to top NCB sources, the searches are in connection with drugs-related cases the agency has registered in recent months. The source, however, remained tight-lipped and didn't reveal the details. ►P3

## Vulnerabilities in WhatsApp for iOS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has warned users of multiple vulnerabilities in WhatsApp and WhatsApp Business for iOS which could allow a remote attacker to bypass security restrictions or execute arbitrary code on the target system. One vulnerability was found in the Screen Lock feature in WhatsApp and WhatsApp Business for iOS due to improper authorisation of input, CERT-In said in a vulnerability note.



## Mkt scales new peak on Biden win



# Covid vaccine 90% effective in Phase 3 trial: Pfizer

NEW DELHI

A VACCINE jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90 percent effective in preventing Covid-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials, the companies announced Monday.

The statement was released as coronavirus cases are soaring across the world, and European stock markets and oil prices

jumped on the news.

The Phase 3 clinical trial -- the final stage -- of the new vaccine, BNT162b2, began in late July and has enrolled 43,538 participants to date, 90 percent of whom have received a second dose of the vaccine candidate as of November 8. According to preliminary findings, protection in patients was achieved seven days after the second of two



doses, and 28 days after the first. "The first set of results from our Phase 3 Covid-19

vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent

Covid-19," Pfizer chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis," he said. "We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it

most." Based on supply projections, the companies said they expect to supply up to 50 million vaccine doses globally in 2020, and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021. US biotech firm Moderna, several state-run Chinese labs, and a European project led by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca are thought to be closing in on potentially viable vaccines.

## Trump mulls ways to keep up poll fight

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump never admits defeat. But he faces a stark choice now that Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House: Concede gracefully for the sake of the nation or don't -- and get evicted anyway.

After nearly four tortured days of counting yielded a victory for Biden, Trump was still insisting the race was not over. He threw out baseless allegations that the election wasn't fair and "illegal" votes were counted, promised a flurry of legal action and fired off all-caps tweets falsely insisting he'd "WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT."

While some in his circle were nudging Trump to concede gracefully, many of his Republican allies, including on Capitol Hill, were egging him on or giving him space to process his loss -- at least for the time being.

"Trump has not lost," declared South Carolina Sen Lindsey Graham in an appearance on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures," rejecting the reality of the situation. "Do not concede, Mr President. Fight hard," he urged.

Trump is not expected to formally concede, according to people close to him, but is likely to grudgingly vacate the White House at the end of his term. His ongoing efforts to paint the election as unfair are seen both as an effort to soothe a bruised ego and to show his loyal base of supporters that he is still fighting. That could be key to keeping them energized for what comes next.

"He intends to fight," Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow said as it was becoming clear that the president was headed for defeat.

NEW DELHI

AFTER the conclusion of the three-phase Bihar Assembly elections on Saturday, the counting of votes will begin at 8 am on Tuesday. Even as most exit polls have predicted a big win for Tejashwi Yadav-led Mahagathbandhan, comprising the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress and the Left parties in the state, the incumbent Nitish Kumar is looking to retain another term in the state.

If predictions of the pollster come out to be true, which have often been wide off the mark, Yadav will become the youngest chief minister any state in the country has had.

Tuesday's counting will also decide the political fate of nearly a score of ministers, including Nand Kishore Yadav (Patna Sahib), Pramod Kumar (Motihari), Rana Randhir (Madhuban), Suresh

## Kaun Banega Bihar Ka Badshah

# NITISH OR TEJASHWI?



Sharma (Muzaffarpur), Shrawan Kumar (Nalanda), Jai Kumar Singh (Dinara) and Krishnanandan Prasad Verma (Jehanabad).

The term of the 243-member Bihar Legislative Assembly comes to an end on November 29. Of the total



strength, 38 seats are reserved for SCs and two for STs.

The Election Commission has made elaborate arrangements for counting, by setting up 55 counting centres in 38 districts across Bihar, with 414 counting halls set up.

# Delhi air quality 'severe'



NEW DELHI

THE national capital's air quality remained "severe" for the fifth consecutive day on Monday, with calm wind speed exacerbating the effect of stubble burning.

V K Soni, the head of the India Meteorological Department's environment research centre, said a major improvement in Delhi-

NCR's air quality was highly unlikely in the coming days. "The air quality is likely to be recorded in the upper end of the 'very poor' category on Diwali if we discount firecrackers emissions. If people burst crackers, pollution levels can increase to 'severe' to 'severe plus' category (emergency)," he said.

An official said the newly-constituted Commission for

Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas is likely to hold a review meeting on Monday considering the situation. The city's air quality index (AQI) stood at 474 at 11 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. Its 24-hour average AQI was 416 on Sunday, 427 on Saturday, 406 on Friday and 450 on Thursday, the

highest since November 15 last year, when it was 458.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, and Gurugram also recorded "severe" air quality. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

# Covid, racial equality top on Biden agenda

WASHINGTON

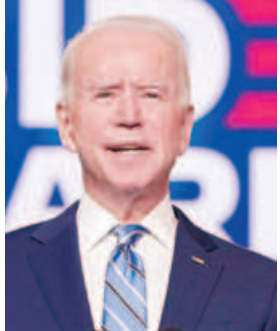
TACKLING COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery, racial equality and climate change are the four top priorities for the Biden administration, his transition team said on Sunday, a day after Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris won the November 3 US election.

Following a tense week of vote tallying, Democratic presidential candidate Biden on Saturday won the state of Pennsylvania and vaulted ahead in the race to become the next president of the United States.

Joe Biden's win in the key battleground state put him over the threshold of 270 electoral votes, cutting off all avenues for his opponent.

As his vice president, Kamala Harris will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman - and the first woman of colour - to occupy the office.

"We aren't just going to rebuild what has worked in the past. This is our opportunity to build back better than ever," said the Biden-Harris transition team, giving details of the priorities



for the next administration. "President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris are confronting a pandemic, an economic crisis, calls for racial justice, and climate change. The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," it said.

Once sworn into office, Biden and Ms Harris will provide the much-needed national leadership to tackle the pandemic and begin our nation's recovery, it said.

Biden and Harris would be sworn in on January 20. The mandate of the transition team is to put in place the infrastructure that can ensure smooth transition from the outgoing administration and efficiently run the administration on day one.

# Delhi overtakes Maha, Kerala in Covid cases

NEW DELHI

SEVENTY-NINE per cent of the 45,903 new COVID-19 cases are from 10 states and UTs, with Delhi overtaking Maharashtra and Kerala by reporting 7,745 infections in a span of 24 hours to become the largest contributor to the single-day infections, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday. Delhi had earlier overtaken Maharashtra and Kerala on November 7 also.

The city has reported the highest daily new cases, also its highest tally so far with 7,745 new cases. The na-

## MAKES UP 79% OF COUNTRY'S TOTAL ON MONDAY

tional capital is followed by Maharashtra with 5,585 cases and Kerala with 5,585 cases, the ministry said. "New daily cases continue to trend downwards with the success of Jan-Andolan promoting COVID appropriate behaviour," the ministry said.

The trend of recoveries outnumbering new cases has continued for the 37th day with 48,405 cases recovering in a span of 24 hours as against 45,903 infections being reported during the



same period. "This trend has continued to shrink the active caseload of India which presently stands at 5,09,673 which comprises 5.96 per cent of the total COVID-19 cases," the ministry underlined.

India's cumulative COVID-19 positivity rate has also declined as new cases decline but focus on testing remains a prime commitment of the Centre and the State and UT governments. India's cumulative positivity rate has

dropped to 7.19 per cent as on date. The COVID-19 recovery rate has also been boosted with the trend of recoveries exceeding new cases and presently stands at 92.56 per cent. Total recoveries have surged to 79,17,373 and exceed active cases by 74,07,700.

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# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**KRITI SANON**  
**@KRITISANON**

 Measuring the  
 length of my room ♀


## Get glowing skin with coconut milk

If you have got a really bad tan and you want to lighten your skin then here are some remedies for you by using an easily available product and that is coconut milk. In case you are wondering where to get it from, well it is easily available in all supermarkets. If not you can easily make it at home. All you need to do is grate some coconut and grind it with a little bit of water. Then strain the coconut milk out using a muslin cloth or a filter.

Coconut milk can be used as a wholesome skincare routine. So let's see how we can do a full skincare routine with coconut milk.

### Coconut milk cleanser

Coconut milk is an excellent cleanser. You need yogurt plus half portion of coconut milk. Use this as a cleanser for face as well as neck and wipe it off with cotton.

### Coconut milk scrub

Exfoliating regularly helps you to get lighter skin eventually. Take cooked oats and coconut milk and buttermilk. Mix it well and use it as a face scrub regularly. Yes, this scrub can be used on a regular basis as this is a very mild scrub meant to be used on a

daily basis. This will keep blackheads at bay.

### Coconut milk face pack

Take 4 almonds, soak it overnight and grind it into a smooth paste. Add 2 teaspoons of coconut milk, and lime juice to it. Now add 1 teaspoon of milk powder to and then blend it all well. Apply this face mask on a clean face and spread it all over your face as well as your neck. The collective ingredients in here including coconut milk will together boost the skin and your complexion will lighten in just a couple of routine itself.

### Coconut milk and turmeric pack

Now as we all know turmeric is super great product to lighten the skin and coconut milk when mixed with turmeric becomes an ultimate recipe to make skin lighter or fairer. You need to take 2 to 3 spoons of coconut milk, and then add half a spoon of turmeric powder into it. Then add finely ground rice powder into the mixture and mix well. Apply this face pack 3 times a week to reap great benefits.

### Coconut milk facial oil

This is one ancient recipe from ayurveda. Extract coconut milk about half cup or so first. Then take a thick bottomed pan and pour the coconut milk in it. Keep the pan on low flame and heat it. Some-time later the coconut milk will get clearer and turn into oil. Turn off the

# Following the path of passion

TEJAL SINHA

The saying, 'Do what you love and love what you do' goes well with Udit, a, 34 years old's journey of being a content creator.

She communications strategist by profession from Kolkata has always been interested in creating content as she used to write poems since her childhood and now loves talking and being in front of the camera. After years of being unhappy, frustrated and unemployed, she finally found an outlet for herself, one where she could channel everything negative into something beautiful, creative, positive and inspiring.

Udit shares, "I joined Trel in 2018 as I have always been extremely passionate about travel and food. Before joining Trel, I had been unemployed for quite some time and didn't know what to do. However, I managed to get a lot of love and appreciation from the platform which helped me stand on my own two feet while sharing my passion for food and travel with all my followers. Since I was a young teen, I wanted to be in front of the camera. As I have always had an extremely vivid imagination and a passion for creation, the revolution of the internet and social media helped me get into content creation very naturally. As a child, I used to write poems and I must've written 500 poems since I was in the 5th standard, but being able to share my stories and experiences through a visual medium has always been my dream."

She found her voice in front of her phone camera, documenting and sharing every small and big thing happening in her life. In fact, she even has an entire wall in the room of her house full of ideas on colorful post-its and cut-outs for different video ideas and inspiration.

She adds, "Initially, I had a hard time figuring out editing and putting all the videos together. Being in front of the camera was never a problem for me and so eventually I

learnt how to edit videos. I started off as a novice but I think I do a decent job of editing videos now."

Her positivity is so unwavering that when she lost her father in December last year, she channeled all her emotions into creating wonderful content on Trel. She continued to push herself into being the best version of herself instead of letting a loss as big as this take over her life.

"My father was always very supportive of my choice to create content, and I choose to honor and remember him by creating more videos about things that I am passionate about. I can feel that he is super proud of me right now. When I lost my father last year, Bimal Kartheek Rebba and Pulkit Agrawal reached out to me to give me such emotional and mental strength during these trying times. Due to the creation of such a community, where followers become friends and founders become family, I think Trel is the future of the online world," says June, with a smile on her face.

Every month, she makes Rs 20,000 from collaborations on the platform, which helps her support herself and her mother while doing something she loves doing, which is engaging with new, curious people every day. She has more than 140K followers, for whom she is an inspiration, as she continues to march on in life despite its many challenges.

June loves creating videos about everything under the sun, from food to relationship advice and astrology. But creating travel content is possibly her favorite. "I was bitten by the travel bug as a child but now I have an opportunity to share my stories and experiences with like-minded people."

As she waits for the pandemic to get over so that she can explore parts of India again, June has currently been posting recipe videos of mouth-watering Bengali delicacies, which have motivated her followers and many users in the platform from all over the country to embrace Bengali food.

Most people think content creation is like any other job, but for June Udit, it is her life



## 'Ghungghats' will be back in vogue: Monisha Jaising

PUJA GUPTA

Fashion designer Monisha Jaising feels the pandemic will bring back the traditional "Ghungghat" worn by brides. As wedding season approaches, she says, the focus will be on silhouettes.

Monisha shares, "Due to the pandemic, weddings have changed completely, from guests list to the bridal attire. Earlier, brides used to go for heavy embroidery lehengas with a lot of jewellery to go with it. However, in the given situation, weddings have become closed door events with limited number of family and friends. It has brought back the traditional "ghungghat".

This will be a huge come back trend in all weddings post COVID-19 as it is not just our tradition, but will also work as a mask to keep you safe."

The concept of 'ghungghats' has



been there for centuries. Its utilisation has become more of a fashion statement that necessity, because it's meant to be a royal wedding accessory and

also completes the Indian wedding attire.

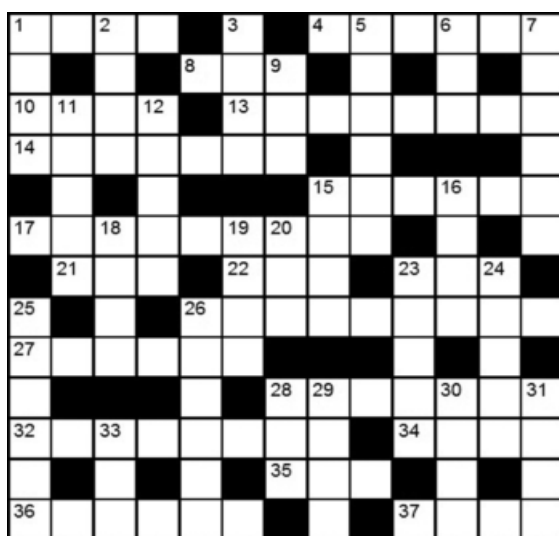
During this wedding season, the main focus will be on silhouettes as it's now more important

ettes will play the role as it will be the focus of the garment.

"Functional and comfortable clothing is the new essential for every bride for example lehengas and evening gowns with pockets to keep their stuff handy like mask and sanitizer. Considering the current scenario, comfort is the key. Pocket lehengas or pre-stitched sarees are revolutionary in creating functional fashion.

As many festivals and occasions are small due to pandemic, the kind of garments that we used to wear earlier has changed. Definitely this can bring more innovation to bridal fashion," adds Monisha.

Bridal wear can be reused on other occasions as going minimal with garments is trending. Garments that are simple yet elegant can be recreated, for instance, pairing the bottom of the lehenga with shirt to rock the occasion.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 9

## CROSSWORD

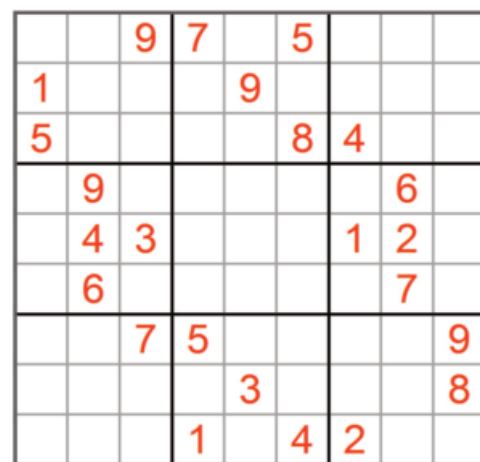
### Across

- 1 Haul (4)
- 4 Tree-lined road (6)
- 8 Corn - pipe (3)
- 10 Botanical sacs (4)
- 13 Entrancing (8)
- 14 Cheat (7)
- 15 Shaping tools (6)
- 17 Aggrieved, peeved (9)
- 21 Plague (3)
- 22 Read Only Memory, in short (3)
- 23 Ballpark figure (3)
- 26 Eclipses, outshines or overshadows (9)
- 27 Selection (6)
- 28 Minimal wear (1-6)
- 32 Interval at work (3,5)
- 34 Implore or petition (4)
- 35 Yang's opposite (3)
- 36 Easily remembered (6)
- 37 Cruise stop (4)

### Down

- 1 Pod contents (4)
- 2 Positions (4)
- 3 Eyeliner powder (4)
- 5 Cultural destroyer (6)
- 6 Denial - "ton" anagram ? (3)
- 7 An over indulgence (6)
- 9 Cricket sundry (3)
- 11 Brush away (5)
- 12 Book reference (5)
- 15 A kind of swelling (4)
- 16 Sings wordlessly (4)
- 18 Middling (2-2)
- 19 Genuine (4)
- 20 In favour of (3)
- 23 Unjustly assume (5)
- 24 Contour feather (5)
- 25 \_\_\_ acid : acid found in vinegar ? (6)
- 26 Burn slightly on the surface (6)
- 28 Merry or happy (3)
- 29 Remove surface layer (4)
- 30 Eye part (4)
- 31 Circular course (4)
- 33 Fore's counterpart (3)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 9

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Bandish Bandits star Shreya Chaudhry shares her bucket list

Actress Shreya Chaudhry has revealed her bucket list, and it is all about trying out different things to stay motivated.

"I have always loved adventure since childhood. I believe that taking a different route from the mundane keeps one motivated in life. For me, the bucket list is what keeps me going and makes me happy. I have a long list of things on my bucket list. To highlight a few sky diving, witnessing northern lights and, since I like flying, I would love to get pilot's license," Shreya said.

Her bucket list also includes; starting a production house of her own, experience snowfall, last but not least learning how to ride a horse without a saddle. She feels that these are just means to gain more knowledge and create wonderful memories," she added.

Shreya recently made headlines for her role in the web show, "Bandish Bandits", also featuring Naseeruddin Shah, Atul Kulkarni, Ritwik Bhowmik, Sheeba Chaddha, Rajesh Tailang and Kunaal Roy Kapur.





# Trump may target China before leaving White House: Experts

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump is showing no signs of backing down from his White House post. After his defeat against President-elect Joe Biden, the Republican leader may double down on China in his final office months, leaving behind more diplomatic or trade tangles to untie for the Democrat, experts say.

According to ANI, experts are of the opinion that amid Trump's continued blame on China for the coronavirus pandemic and the resultant economic losses faced by the US, Beijing could be an easy target for the US president to strike against. "I think there is a good chance for mischief across a range of US policies leading up to the inauguration on January 20," said James Green, a Georgetown University senior fellow and former trade negotiator based in the US embassy in Beijing, SCMP reports. "In terms of cooperative handover procedures, I worry about that. It seems to me one of those norms that the Trump administration has no interest in upholding," he said.

The SCMP report states foreign policy moves using "quick" executive orders or agency rule marking, appointments that don't require Senate confirmation,

Melania, Donald heading for divorce?

United States' incumbent President Donald Trump just lost the crucial 2020 presidential elections to Democratic challenger Joe Biden in one of the most-watched election races in the history of the country. But if reports are to be believed, Trump may be set to lose much more than his seat in the White House in the aftermath of the elections.

Even as Biden took to his hometown in Delaware to give his victory speech to speculation rife about incumbent First Lady Melania Trump's alleged plans to divorce Trump as soon as he leaves the White House.

According to a report in British tabloid Daily Mail, Melania Trump is allegedly waiting for Trump to concede defeat and leave the White House before she can end her 15-year-long marriage with the business-



man and Republican incumbent. The revelation was apparently made by Trump's former aide Omarosa Manigault Newman, who was quoted by Daily Mail as saying, "Melania is counting every minute until he is out of the office and she can divorce". Calling their relationship a "transactional marriage", the report noted that not all was well in between the Trumps.

He added, however, that if "Melania were to try to pull the ultimate humiliation and leave while he's in office, he would find a way to punish her". That's not all, the report also quoted another former Trump-aide, Stephanie Wolkoff, as stating that the former Slovene-American model was "negotiating a post-nuptial agreement" to ensure her and Trump's son Barron gets an equal and proportionate share of the Trump fortune.

state-owned companies to sanctions.

"Expanding restrictions on "dual-use" civilian-military exports, banning more Chinese apps after its TikTok and WeChat campaigns and blocking all semicon-

ductor sales to Huawei Technologies beyond those for 5G networks" are some of the possible actions the report lists. This could lead to a challenge for the Biden administration, as it would have to "confront a more emboldened Beijing".

However, due to China's power growth in the last four years, Biden policies could be similar to Trump, said Sarah Kreps, a Cornell University law and government professor. Amid the impending moves lies the US public view of China, which has become more negative since Trump took control.

According to the Pew Research Centre, 73 per cent of Americans hold a negative view of China, up 13 percentage points from last year, and 20 points from 2017 when Trump took office. The US had previously removed the East Turkestan Islamic Movement from its list of terrorist organisations after nearly two decades, leading to the weakening of China's anti-terror pretext for a draconian crackdown on Uyghurs in its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the report states. The action came amid worldwide condemnation of China's policies in Xinjiang, where a large population of Muslim minorities is detained in re-education camps.

# NCB RAIDS ARJUN RAMPAL'S PREMISES IN DRUGS CASE

Nadiadwala summoned, wife undergoes medical test  
Won't let anyone malign Bollywood: Maha Minister



Arjun Rampal with Gabriella Demetriades

MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Monday raided the premises of Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal. The searches were in connection with drugs-related cases the agency has registered in recent months.

On October 19, the NCB had arrested Agisilaos Demetriades, a brother of Rampal's south African girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades. NCB has also summoned veteran Bollywood filmmaker Firoz Nadiadwala in connection with the arrest of his wife Shabana Saeed and seizure of drugs from her. Shabana underwent a medical checkup at a government hospital.

Firoz Nadiadwala, who was not at home on Sunday when the NCB raided his premises, has been called for investigations after the agency seized drugs worth Rs 3.59 lakh from his home, other locations and from at least four drug peddlers. The NCB swooped on Nadiadwala's Juhu

home and other locations to recover 717.1 gm ganja, 74.1 gm charas and 95.1 gm MD (commercial quantity), besides another 10 gm of ganja from a peddler Wahid A. Kadir Shaikh, alias Sultan.

Maharashtra minister Anil Parab said the government will not allow anyone to malign Bollywood. "If drugs have been found in someone's possession or someone is consuming it and it's against the law, then action should be taken. But if someone is maligning Bollywood and working towards shifting it elsewhere from Mumbai then it's wrong. We won't let it happen."

"It is wrong to assume that the entire Bollywood is bad just because a few are involved in drugs. Action should be taken against those involved in it." Last month Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray talked about the attempts to malign and finish off the Mumbai film industry.

# PILOTS LICENCE SCAM 188 countries set to ban Pak airlines

LAHORE

Airlines operating in Pakistan may face a ban from flying to 188 countries over their pilot licensing issue and failure to meet international standards as required by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a media report said. Due to the licence scam, flag carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has already been barred from flying to the UK and the European Union, The Express Tribune report said.

The scam came to light after Ghulam Sarwar Khan, the Federal Minister for Aviation, had revealed in August that 262 pilots including 141 of the PIA held fake credentials. Meanwhile, the ICAO in its 12th meeting of its 179th session approved a mechanism for addressing Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs) to its member states.



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# PM inaugurates projects worth ₹614 crore

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects for Varanasi, including those related to agriculture, tourism and infrastructure. The total cost implication of these projects is Rs 614 crore, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has granted In-Principle approval vide memo no. LC-3054/Asstt. (AK)/2020/18087 dated 13-10-2020 for change in Beneficial Interest as per policy no. PF-51A2015/2708 dated 18-02-2015 for change in developer from M/s Manira Developers Private Limited to M/s Signatureglobal Developers Private Limited for developing Affordable Group Housing Colony over land admeasuring 5 acres under license no. 63 of 2014 dated 07-07-2014. While according the said in-principle approval, the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has directed the company to inform the general public about the change in name of the developer through public notice in the leading newspapers and accordingly the notice is hereby issued for their information and if any objection, the same may be sent to the office of STP Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The said permission granted is also being uploaded/ hosted on our website [www.signatureglobal.in](http://www.signatureglobal.in)

By  
Authorised Signatory  
Signatureglobal Developers Private Limited  
(Formerly Known as Manira Developers Private Limited)  
Regd Off: 130B, 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan,  
29 Sarakumbha Road, New Delhi-110001  
Place: New Delhi Dated: 14.10.2020

# Guinness World Record Om is world's youngest computer programmer

AHMEDABAD

A Class II student, Arham Om Talsania, from Ahmedabad based Udgam School For Children, has created a Guinness World Record by clearing the powerful Python programming language exam at the age of six. The exam was conducted at Pearson VueTest Center authorised by Microsoft on January 23, 2020. The test, which is difficult to crack by many buddy engineers, has been passed by this incredible boy, thus becoming the world's youngest computer programmer.

Arham has broken the earlier Guinness record of seven-year-old Muhammad Hamza Shahzad, a British boy of Pakistani origin. In an exam where a candidate needed 700 out of 1000 marks to get the prestigious certificate, Arham Talsania, now turned 7, had scored 900 and got recognised as 'Microsoft Technology Associate'.

Arham, son of software engineer parents, was much interested in computers and tablets since he was an infant. He



Arham has broken the earlier Guinness record of seven-year-old Muhammad Hamza Shahzad, a British boy of Pakistani origin

started operating a tablet when he wasn't even two years old. His hunger for different

computing devices was very high, and by his 3rd birthday, he ended up using all types of Operating Systems - Android, Windows, and iOS. By the age of 5, he already knew all the standard programming apps that children learn once they are in class VI, such as Scratch and Tynker. Since he has much interest in playing video games and wanted to build his own video games, these apps were not enough, hence learned python.

This youngest computer programmer sees his father as a role model. His father, Om Talsania is currently working as a Technology Head for one of the U.S.-based multinational companies. Explaining the journey of achieving the feat, a proud father said "He loves playing videogames and wanted to build his own. I showed him some of my own work, and he got inspired to build his own game using Python. I started giving him basic training in Python programming, and soon, he picked up quickly. He started learning how to build games using Python programming language.

# ARMY MAJOR FOUND DEAD

JAMMU

An Army Major was found dead on Monday under mysterious circumstances inside his camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. Police

sources said Major Vineet Gullia, Company Commander of 38 Rashtriya Rifles was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the camp in Dhera Ki Gali in Rajouri district. "Inquest proceedings under 174 CrPc have been started.

# People scared of Fourth Estate, Doordarshan era much better: HC HC asks Republic TV, Times Now to ensure no defamatory content uploaded against 'Bollywood family'

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked news channels as to what needs to be done to improve the current standards of news reportage, while remarking that people are "scared of the Fourth Estate and that Doordarshan era was much better". "People are scared about the Fourth Estate. Even if the issue regarding the privacy of public figures is diluted, you (news channels) cannot drag their personal lives into the public domain," said Justice Rajiv Shakdhar.

The court added: "Black-and-white Doordarshan era was much better, I feel." The court also questioned the news channels about the mechanism to change the way news reporting is taking place nowadays. "Even trained and educated minds get affected by such consistently misreporting. You tell us how should we resolve this?" the court asked.

The Court asked media houses AGR Outlier Media and Bennett Coleman and Company to ensure that no defamatory content is uploaded on social media or displayed on their channels, while hearing a plea by Bollywood producers seeking to restrain them from making irresponsible remarks.

In strong observations while hearing the plea, the high court cited the death of Princess Diana while trying to escape the media chase, and said there needs to be "some toning down" as people are "afraid of the fourth pillar of democracy" because of its powers. The court sought replies from Republic TV, its editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and reporter Pradeep Bhandari, Times Now editor-in-chief Rahul Shivshankar and group editor Navika Kumar, and intermediaries Google, Facebook and Twitter on the plea. Leading Bollywood producers have sought to restrain them from making or publishing allegedly "irresponsible, derogatory and

defamatory remarks" against the film industry and conducting media trials against its members on various issues following the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The lawsuit by four Bollywood industry associations and 34 leading producers, has also sought to restrain them from interfering with the right to privacy of persons associated with the industry. Justice Rajiv Shakdhar was assured by the counsel for the media houses that they will follow the programme code and the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act.

The bench stated that it's not disallowing the news channels from covering news but is only asking them to pursue responsible journalism. "We're not saying that you cannot cover such news but we are (only) asking you to carry out responsible journalism," it said. The court also warned the channels that if they don't follow the Programme Code, it will have to "enforce" it.



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## Afghanistan is a never-ending war zone

Violent attacks in Afghanistan surged by 50 per cent over recent months even as the Kabul government and the Taliban launched unprecedented peace talks in September, a US watchdog warned Thursday. Despite brief lulls during two temporary ceasefires over the summer, fighting has raged across the country as the Taliban launched devastating attacks on provincial capitals and security installations, with fears the violence may jeopardise negotiations. Attacks against Afghan forces and civilians were 50 percent higher in the three months to the end of September when compared to the previous quarter, the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said.

"Overall enemy-initiated attacks this quarter were also characterized as 'above seasonal norms,'" SIGAR's quarterly report to the US Congress added. The watchdog reported 2,561 civilian casualties this quarter including 876 deaths, up 43 per cent from

the April to June period. This has often been said and the situation has not changed much. There is not a single way that peace could be restored in Afghanistan.

Recent attack on Kabul University is yet another example of the terror tactics that the Taliban play and Pakistan only rejoices the collapse of the national peace in the battered and war ravaged country. Observers speculate about what kind of political arrangement, if any, could satisfy both Kabul and the Taliban to the extent that the latter fully abandons armed struggle. In any event, it remains unclear to what extent the U.S. withdrawal is contingent upon the Taliban holding talks with Kabul or the outcome of such talks.

A full-scale U.S. withdrawal and/or aid cutoff could lead to the collapse of the Afghan government and perhaps even the re-establishment of Taliban control. This was a well-known fact. Yet the Trump administration in the US would not heed just to make the President keep his word. The mess that Trump will be leaving behind in the world could be best illustrated by Afghanistan. No other country has suffered so much and so often thanks to the power play of countries like the US.

By many measures, the Taliban are in a stronger military position now than at any point since 2001, though many once-public metrics related to the conduct of the war have been classified or are no longer produced. The present report by SIGAR comes as scattered calls to boycott the ongoing peace talks have been raised following back-to-back attacks on education centres in Kabul claimed by the Islamic State group, but which some government officials insist were carried out by the Taliban. Little progress has been made in meetings between Afghan government negotiators and the Taliban since the talks started on September 12, with negotiations stalled over the basic framework of talks and an agenda still undecided.

Both sides have routinely accused each other of upping hostilities and killing civilians. Zalmay Khalilzad, the US envoy who negotiated a separate deal with the Taliban in February, has repeatedly warned that "continued high levels of violence can threaten the peace process and the agreement and the core understanding that there is no military solution" to the Afghan conflict. The Afghan blood is on everyone's hands, both that of the perpetrators and that of the spectators.

## Covid-19 impact on small businesses: Positive or Negative?

HARSHA SHEELAM

Needless to state, Covid-19 has created a great impact for small businesses across India. Nevertheless, it has not only restricted its impact to small businesses, but also extended to India's labour market; nationally & internationally.

Large businesses, corporates, institutions, conglomerates, on the other hand, stay mildly affected as compared to their "industry colleagues" - the micro and small businesses. Indian inc. launched the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" along with banning various Chinese products. According to research conducted by Institute for Competitiveness along with Times Network, 90 per cent of respondents believe in shifting government focus on substituting imports of essential commodities.

For instance, domestic and home-grown businesses have requested an increase of import duties, such as the sodium sulphide, and basic chrome sulphate, which is used for treating leather, hence making it difficult and expensive for Indian distributors, wholesalers, importers who were previously importing such foreign products. Here, multiple businesses are gaining and losing simultaneously. For example, the distributors, importers of these chemicals would be at a loss, & would now need to shift to Indian manufacturers of the same chemicals. Here, Indian chemical manufacturing industry is booming.

The distributors, retailers, wholesalers, resellers across various industries would be gaining and losing at the same time and would be on a "new manufacturer hunt". This creates opportunities for Indian manufacturing companies. To solve this problem of choice for middlemen, "Which manufacturer to choose?" the Distributor's Discretion on Manufacturer Matrix can be adopted. The matrix allows the distributors, middlemen, agents, retailers, wholesalers, and more to choose the right manufacturer on the basis of marketability and cost. Thus, making shift from foreign brands to Indian brands more feasible, clear, & effective.



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### Positive impact

We begin with positivity. Covid-19 has initiated, "Atmanirbhar Bharat", "New Educational Policy 2020", "Labour Codes", "One Nation One Ration Card", new MSME policies, and so much more. All of the above have considerably re-built the trust of Indian businesses, labourers, and society at large. Undoubtedly, with Atmanirbhar Bharat, and new MSME policies, the Indian manufacturing sector has been given a push.

India has the second largest labour force globally according to the International Labour Organization 2018. Post-Covid, in 2019, India had ranked 63rd in Ease of Doing Business category of the World Bank, which was a visible leap from 142nd position 5 years ago.

Although, we can predict that the health & care industry, pharmaceutical industry, essential commodities industry, education industry, are now on major focus due to multiple factors such as ban of Chinese products, Japan investing 2.2 billion to move Japanese companies out of China, increase in import duties, tariffs, and taxes, and most importantly, India ranks 'third' in Manufacturing Risk Index 2020 of Cushman and Wakefield, where it implies that, India is the THIRD most suitable place for global manufacturing firms on basis of conditions of operations and competitiveness.

For example, India also has initiated "Vocal for Local" and "Production Linked incentives" which empowers the food industry, textile industry, automotive industry, electronic manufacturing in India.

### What can India improve on?

Goods and Service Tax can be more clearly explained and executed, as more and more small businesses are wary. Creation of employment opportunities for numerous students who have been on the edge during the pandemic, a policy which protects both recruiters and employees. Properly marketed "entrepreneurship education cells" in partnership with management consultancies, startup consultancies, business coaches & more for building India's innovation and entrepreneurship capabilities. Though similar, "Entrepreneurship Education Cells" still exist in schools and colleges, but are these cells given importance equal to term examinations? No.

### Negative impact

Covid-19 had an immense negative impact on Indian economy, so much so that it cannot be concisely written in this article. Although, the very evident macroeconomic and microeconomic factors affected are GDP which reduced by 23.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2020. India, though progressing yet suffering. Hence the question persists, Positive or Negative impact of Covid-19? India is the 3rd most affected country due to Covid-19. The industries which have been evidently affected are finance, construction, real estate, utilities, mining and quarrying, hotel and transportation, and others. Both exports and imports fell.

Unfortunately, the micro and small businesses, daily wagers, and more have all placed placards with either "temporarily closed" or "to-let" boards written on them. The sad and temporary demise of small retailers, wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, and the society at large.

In conclusion, the scenario for Indian small businesses seem to be promising provided that the Atmanirbhar Bharat is well executed. Plans and policies have been formulated, but the implementation still needs work. One Nation One Ration Card would come to force only in 2021, and due to this several migrant labourers have faced the wrath of hunger during the pandemic, where for the time-being Government could have promoted e-PDS systems, and educated the people about the same. "Vocal for Local" would go a long way, provided that we are firstly vocal about the benefits of all these policies, procedures, and how to avail these benefits.

Many government organisations are yet to 'acknowledge the knowledge' of these new policies. This delay is the loophole. India should add additional efforts and make complete utilization of its 'cheap labour force' as an asset for foreign companies to establish themselves here. How many Japanese firms that shifted away from China are set to establish themselves in India? Known to us are only two, i.e; Toyota-Tsusho and Sumida. News reports do state that many Japanese companies are aiming to invest in Uttar Pradesh, and Indian is expecting strategic investment from Japan, but how are we unfolding it, how are India's business sector and top-level managers working towards it?

100 per cent FDI in contract manufacturing which came in 2019, again was promising, but the Covid-19 blew the plans. What can be done to revive it again along with tapping the benefits of the long forgotten Special Economic Zones. The SEZs are duty-free zones, and India recognizes eight of them, Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Falta (West Bengal), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Indore (Maharashtra). The SEZs help in economic development. What if we may direct Japanese companies to the SEZs? All of the multiple possibilities or impossibilities can empower India's small businesses.

(The author is founder & CEO of Byrur Business Solutions, PhD scholar and Business editorialist)

## Caste and roster cast shadows on objectivity



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

Judge of Madras High Court Justice Chandru pointed out that there were complaints against AP HC Judge Justice P Chandra Reddy, and the then Chief Justice of India Gajendra Gadkar has transferred him out of AP to Madras, after he personally inquired into the allegation in Hyderabad.

Justice Chandru pointed out what exactly the type of complaint was: "At least in five cases, motions were brought against high court judges, but not one of them was taken to the logical end. In the early 60s when complaints were made against Justice Chandra Reddy (A.P. High Court) that he was favouring persons in the Bar, the Supreme Court was at a loss to deal with the situation".

Then, Justice Chandru quoted from biography of Gajendra Gadkar, Chief Justice of India, who went to Hyderabad on an unofficial visit. Justice Gajendra Gadkar wrote in his biography: "I took the Chief Justice into my confidence... I said in fairness, 'You give me the names of your lawyers and your colleagues whom I should take into my confidence and ask relevant questions'... He supplied me with the list and it as precisely the lawyers and judges named by him in the list that I met. To my disagreeable surprise, not only all the lawyers but even most of the judges supported the complaint... I had unfortunately come to the conclusion that many of the complaints were well founded. I also told him that I did not want to suggest any action which would discredit him in the eyes of the public, but I would propose to the Union Government to send him to Madras."

Chandru further wrote: "We wish we had such lawyers today practising in courts to make an informal inquiry truthful and result oriented. But we have only certain bar associations jumping into the fray and trying to save judges accused of serious misbehaviour in the name of independence of judiciary". After these allegations Justice P Chandra Reddy was transferred from AP to Madras HC. The official website of Madras High Court shows that Palagani Chandra Reddi worked as Judge from 1950 to 1954. (<http://www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in/former-judges.pdf>) (Andhra Pradesh High Court website <https://aphcaa.in/former-judges/>) shows P Chandra Reddy worked at AP High Court from 1958 to 1964.

After getting transferred because of proven complaints, Chandra Reddy must have returned to Hyderabad as Chief Justice. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, has made a



The media in AP (and Telangana) is also divided on these party lines. Technical wings of these two political parties have developed strategies to do campaigns and counter campaigns purely on caste-party links, vertically dividing people, critics, and others. Any comment or TV debate gets the tag of either party depending on the support to the point. For instance, if somebody hails judgment of AP High Court striking down the GO which proposed for conversion of all schools into English medium schools, he would be tagged as TDP man. Someone who finds fault with general order gagging media from reporting, he is called YSRCP man.

If anybody writes that Jagan has committed contempt of court and action should be taken against him, for the letter alleging bias and undue influence by a Supreme Court judge is he must be a TDP supporter, and if a critique says the system of rule of law demands consideration of allegations for further inquiry, he is YSRCP's agent.

lengthy, eight-page-complaint to the Union Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on 4 November 1961. He wrote:

"Politics have crept into the High Court where also groupism on communal and other lines has been predominant. Unless the Present Chief Justice is changed immediately, it will be disastrous for this already communal ridden state.

Sri P Chandra Reddy is thoroughly communal minded, and he displays this quality openly without any regard to public opinion. He has strong likes and dislikes which badly interfere with his work. He got closely attached to some puisne Judges of the High court who have been exercising strong influence over him, namely Mr Justice S. Raju and Mr Justice JM Reddy. The entire administration is run by them. The former of the two, particularly, is of very scheming and intriguing type and Justice Chandra Reddy is completely in his hands. They go the High Court together everyday and even in the open parties in the public, this association is demonstrated much to the chagrin of their other colleagues who have insignificant existence in the High Court. Except two or three Judges, the rest are not at all independent, and they can be said to be 'Yes men' of Mr Chandra Reddy, or Mr Raju or Mr JM Reddi. Only such people are chosen for Benches and the Full Benches and Full Benches of our

High Court have become a farce and mockery. The senior most judge to Chief Justice, Mr Justice Umamaheshwaram, who is independent and saintly type of person is completely ignored and sometimes insulted in a sly fashion by keeping Mr Raju in charge of the work of the Chief Justice in his absence. Such personal considerations are not conducive to the harmony or reputation of the High Court. I understand that important files are not even circulated to senior Judges. I learn that there is also manipulation in the posting of cases before the Judges.

While Mr O. Reddy had put up only five years services as a District Judge, Mr Chandra Reddy took up his case strongly and out of the way for promotion to the selection grade and got it done. The Chief Justice also went out of the way in having the seniority of the aforesaid Mr Ramachandra Raju and Mr Chandrasekhara Reddi fixed up in a particular manner.

The cliques in the High Court are openly talked about and they are worse than our politics. Some judges openly expresses that any independent judgement of a Judge is so disliked by the Chief Justice that in hearing an appeal from it he reverses it even without looking into it. It is understood that the Chief Justice Mr Chandra Reddi openly encourages his caste men at the Bar much to the heart-

burn of other members of the Bar. I can assertively state that the confidence of public is badly shaken in his regime as Chief Justice".

The then Chief Minister wanted to keep this complaint confidential to prevent the Chief Justice from interfering and preventing the inquiry and manipulating the affairs in their affair. What happened thereafter is not known.

Sanjeevaiah sought transfer of partisan Chief Justice. Jagan' letter contains serious allegations of political bias in favour of TDP and against YSRCP, undue influence and illegitimate nexus with previous government and involving in purchase of land along with others allegedly with inside information, etc. But he did not seek any action against anyone but prayed for protecting neutrality of judiciary.

Sanjeevaiah's complaint has raised the question of domination of a particular community (Reddy) over the AP Judiciary while CM Jagan Mohan Reddy's letter complains about another sociological groups dominance (Kamma). First was secret and had no visible consequences. Second complaint is kept in public domain, whole nation is discussing it. Two dominant political parties - YSRCP ruling now, and TDP, which stayed in power for a long time in AP till 2019 are dominated by these two castes, respectively.

The media in AP (and Telangana) is also divided on these party lines. Technical wings of these two political parties have developed strategies to do campaigns and counter campaigns purely on caste-party links, vertically dividing people, critics, and others. Any comment or TV debate gets the tag of either party depending on the support to the point. For instance, if somebody hails judgment of AP High Court striking down the GO which proposed for conversion of all schools into English medium schools, he would be tagged as TDP man. Someone who finds fault with general order gagging media from reporting, he is called YSRCP man.

If anybody writes that Jagan has committed contempt of court and action should be taken against him, for the letter alleging bias and undue influence by a Supreme Court judge is he must be a TDP supporter, and if a critique says the system of rule of law demands consideration of allegations for further inquiry, he is a YSRCP's agent.

Almost all complaints expose the issue of Roster and allocation of cases to various benches (of judges). Besides questioning the allocation of certain cases to only selective benches, former CM Sanjeevaiah made allegations against Chief Justice of caste based communal favouritism in selections & adjudication, besides unfair treatment of honest judges. It is almost not possible for Executive or Legislature to create any norms for exercise power of Master of Roster. Then it is the only Judiciary that has to take up the job of guiding this huge discretionary power.

(The writer is Dean, School of Law, Bennett University, and former Central Information Commissioner)

## LETTERS

### World Science Day

World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated on November 10 every year since 2002. This Day signifies the role of science in the society and the need to engage the wider public in debate on emerging scientific issues. It's aim is to underline the importance and relevance of science in our daily life. This year the theme of this day is "Science for and with society in dealing with the global pandemic".

The aim of this day thing is to create awareness among the people about various scientific inventions and how they're impacting their lives, it also aims for using science is a tool for development of the society. As we are celebrating this day in the midst of a pandemic where we all have understood the importance of science in our day-to-day life, even from the schooling to jobs everything moved online and all the credit goes to science and technology.

Krishnansh Somani, Ujjain

### Dubious demonetisation move

Return of 98.96 per cent banned currency in to banks, growing unemployment, shutting down of small industries, falling GDP- all clearly prove that demonetisation was a failure but amusingly PM Modi claims that same was a success (PM Modi tweeted the benefits of demonetisation on the completion of four years, November 9). Objectives of note ban was to retrieve black money,

reducing cash holding, curbing corruption and terrorism but practically nothing was achieved. Why government pursued such a shock strategy through demonetisation when it already had a wide variety of other policy instruments to achieve the same objectives?. There is no justification for Modi to commemorate 8th November as a celebration, when it was a nightmare for majority sections.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

### May the best IPL team win

It is in the fitness of things that the two best teams in the competition will lock horns in this year's IPL final. On Sunday Shikhar Dhawan, Marcus Stoinis and Kagiso Rabada helped Delhi Capitals steal the thunder from Sunrisers Hyderabad to set up a clash with favourites Mumbai Indians. Kane Williamson and Abdul Samad put up a stirring display with the bat for the vanquished and threatened to take the game away from Shreyas Iyer and company but lost the plot in the end. Delhi's maiden IPL final must make its success taste sweeter.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

### IPL during Covid:

### A successful experiment

It is good to note that IPL-2020 has come to a happy end without any hiccups in the present serious Covid-19 situation and congratulations to all the players, organizers and physios without whose cooperation the tournament would not have come to a happy end. To the

viewers it is a great enjoyment in the dry Covid days where killing of time has become difficult. To some extent it has reduced people roaming unnecessarily on the road during the time of play. With this it was proved that other test series and one day matches and T20s between countries may be conducted by taking precautions and in turn it would stop people roaming on to the roads despite the instructions from the government not to come on to the roads unnecessarily. Hence this can be explored as now it is confirmed that the present Covid would not leave us in the near future at least till the vaccine is successfully proved to be effective over the virus

TSN Rao, Bhimavaram

### Biden raises expectations

Biden's triumph marks the forces of decency and empathy over bigotry and hatred. Further the victory of Kamala Harris who is a daughter of Black immigrants and Indian descent as the Vice President of the country smashes another glass ceiling and stands as testimony to the power of possibilities. However the impact of new dispensation's policies on India can be measured on its stand on NDA's core issues like revoking of Article 370 in J&K, the stand-off with China, Pakistan and Afghanistan issues. I hope the Joe Biden's administration will take appropriate steps in favour of India in the wake of Quad that formed to arrest the hegemony of the dragon - Beijing.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Int’l red sanders smuggler Basha among 9 arrested

- Kadapa SP says Sheik Abdul Hakim alias Basha is the kingpin behind the Goturu accident on Nov 1 in which five smugglers were burnt alive during a chase
- Following the mishap, Kadapa police form 5 teams which visited various places in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as Bengaluru and arrested the gang members
- During the investigation, 10 red sanders logs weighing 212 kg have also been recovered



Kadapa SP K N Anburajan (left) producing the arrested red sanders smugglers, including Basha, in Kadapa on Monday

## HANS NEWS SERVICE KADAPA

IN a major breakthrough in red sanders smuggling in the district, special party police arrested a 9-member red sanders smuggling gang, including a notorious international smuggler Sheik Abdul Hakim alias Basha on Monday. The members of the gang were taken into custody at Rayachoti, Rajampet and Kamalapuram in the district and recovered 212 kg 10 red sanders logs weighing 212 kg, a car, 3 motor-cycles, nine cell phones. The accused were identified as Sheik Abdul Hakim alias Basha, of Kadapa, Jayaram Naik of Kalluripalle village Tanda, Chakrayapet mandal, K Venkata Maheswara Raju, of Kadapa, K Viswanath Reddy of Tippireddypalle, K Beeda Merin Prem Ku-

mar, Appayapalle, D Navin Kumar, of Turpugalluru village, C Ravikanth, of BD Colony, P Chiranjeevi, Peddachepalle and K Girlish Kumar of Nehrunagar of Kadapa city. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, SP K N Anburajan said Sheik Abdul Hakim alias Basha, was the kingpin behind the ghastly road accident at Goturu in the district on November 5 in which four passengers of a Scorpio car smuggling red sanders logs were burnt alive and another succumbed in hospital. He revealed that another two members of the same gang that was smuggling the logs in Scorpio, were managed to escape to Tamil Nadu. Another gang that was chasing the Scorpio in another vehicle also escaped from the blaze. The SP said police who

launched the investigation into the accident and the smuggling, formed five special parties which rushed to Bengaluru in Karnataka and Coimbatore, Tirupathur, Vellore in Tamil Nadu as well as in different places in Kadapa district. In the crackdown, police arrested all the 9 accused at various places including Rayachoti, Rajampet and Kamalapuram mandals in the district. Anburajan disclosed that the man behind this smuggling racket Sheik Abdul Hakim was the most wanted criminal as he was involved in 14 incidents in Kadapa and 11 incidents in Anantapur districts. The SP said that Basha had links with international red sanders smugglers like Afroz and Fayaz. The SP appreciated the police personnel for their efforts in nabbing the gang.

# AP seeks ₹5,000 cr Central relief

- Members of inter-ministerial central team meet the Chief Secretary to take stock of the damage caused by floods and heavy rains
- The CS explains that AP suffered a total damage to the tune of Rs 6,320 cr in three months of Aug, Sept and Oct
- Through a presentation, she says 8,784 houses were fully damaged and agriculture crops damaged in an extent of 2,12,588 hectares

## AMARAVATI

THE Andhra Pradesh government on Monday requested the Centre to grant Rs 5,279 crore for restoration of infrastructure damaged due to heavy rains and floods in the state during August-October this year. Chief secretary Nilam Sawhney told the visiting Inter-ministerial Central Team, led by joint secretary Saurav Ray, that the state suffered gross damage to the tune of Rs 6,320.83 crore due to heavy rains and floods in rivers Krishna and Godavari in different spells during August, September and October. “Total amount required for relief and restoration of damaged infrastructure is estimated at Rs 5,279.11 crore, of which Rs 840.07 crore is required as per National Disaster Relief Fund norms for relief and temporary restoration of



Members of inter-ministerial Central team on flood damage meeting Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney at the Secretariat on Monday

damaged infrastructure. An amount of Rs 4,439.14 crore is required for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure,” the chief secretary told the IMCT at a high-level meeting in the Secretariat here. “Generous support by the Government of India will help the state, which is already in critical financial position due to Covid-19,” she said. In her presentation, the chief secretary said AP received heavy rains from August 13 to October 17 due to four low-pressure systems and one deep depression formed over the Bay of Bengal. The floods in Godavari and Krishna rivers were caused due to incessant rains in upper catchment areas of the two river basins in Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, besides heavy rains in the state. The state as a whole received a cumulative rainfall of 444.5

mm as against the normal 351.2 mm during the period, which was 26.6 per cent in excess. Out of 670 mandals in the state, 387 mandals in 12 districts have been affected due to incessant rains and floods in Godavari and Krishna rivers, she pointed out. While 45 people were killed in rain-related incidents like wall collapse, drowning and landslides, five more were reported missing, despite the best possible search and rescue efforts by NDRF and SDRF. Also, 8,784 houses were fully damaged in the affected districts while a large number of cattle were also killed. The chief secretary explained that agriculture crops like paddy, maize, cotton, black gram, pulses and sugarcane, suffered damage to an extent of 2,12,588 hectare. Paddy alone suffered the worst damage in 1,40,485 hectare, Sawhney said, adding

that cotton was the next in an extent of 25,068 ha. Horticulture crops, including vegetables, banana, papaya and turmeric, worth Rs 483 crore were also damaged. As many as 2,657 fish and prawn ponds to an extent of 5,819.7 hectare were damaged in West Godavari, Krishna, East Godavari, Guntur and Visakhapatnam districts, the chief secretary added. Road network, rural water supply schemes, irrigation tanks and drainage systems in urban local bodies also suffered extensive damage. The IMCT inspected a photo exhibition at the Secretariat on the damage. The IMCT later split into three different groups and visited Anantapur, Krishna and Guntur districts for an on-the-spot inspection of the damage suffered. The teams will visit East and West Godavari districts on Tuesday.

# Errant cops won’t be spared: HM



Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharitha ad DGP Gautam Sawang addressing a press conference in in Vijayawada on Monday

## HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

HOME minister Mekathoti Sucharitha said the state government took action against the two police personnel within 24 hours of the suicide incident of a family in Kurnool district taken to the notice of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. She said circle-inspector Somasekar Reddy and constable Gangadhar were arrested immediately in connection with the suicide of four members of autorickshaw driver Abdul Salam recently. She said the guilty will not be spared under any circumstances and departmental action would be initiated against the errant staff.

Addressing a media conference at the R&B office here on Tuesday, Sucharitha said the Chief Minister viewed the suicide incident of Salam very seriously and asked the police department to conduct an inquiry on it. She said the state government responded within 24 hours after the selfie video of the family came out and arrested the CI and constable. A case was registered under Sections 306, 323 and 324 of IPC and two IPS officers, IG Sankabrata Bagchi and R S Hafeez, were sent to Nandyal to conduct a detailed probe into the incident. The home minister said local DIG and DSP were asked to conduct the probe into the incident. Stressing that friendly policing was the need of the hour, she made it clear the government would hesitate even police if they do commit mistakes. She announced an ex gratia of Rs 25 lakh to the lone survivor of the family. Sucharitha said that the Chief Minister had made it clear that such incidents would not be ignored and serious action would be taken. For lodging complaints on officials, a dedicated toll-free number at the district level will be set up, where anyone can file a complaint if they were framed in any false case or facing any trouble in the name of the investigation. DGP D Gautam Sawang said action would be taken against the police if they harass people. He said criminal cases were also being registered against the police besides the departmental action. He said that the police were also directed not to use force and adopt friendly policing.

## Jagan announces ₹50 L ex gratia to kin of slain jawan

### AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday announced an ex gratia of Rs 50 lakh to the family members of Army Jawan Cheekala Praveen Kumar Reddy who was killed in an encounter with the terrorists in Kashmir. Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy and minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy along with Chittoor MP Reddappa and Putalapattu MLA M S Babu called on the family members at Reddivaripalle in Irala mandal in Chittoor district on Monday taking with them the message of the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister said in the message that the sacrifice of Praveen Kumar Reddy was invaluable and the country was proud of him. The ministers handed over the condolence message from the Chief Minister to the family members of the army jawan.

## 1,392 new cases in State

### AMARAVATI

STATE Covid-19 tally increased to 8,44,359 on Monday with the addition of 1,392 cases. The latest bulletin said 1,549 patients got cured in the last 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday while another 11 succumbed. The total number of recoveries in the state now touched 8,16,322 while the overall toll rose to 6,802.

# TTD’s move to withdraw defamation case opposed

## HANS NEWS SERVICE TIRUPATI

FORMER MLC and TDP general secretary B Chengalrayulu opposed TTD’s move to withdraw the defamation case it filed two years back in the local court against YSRCP senior leader V Vijayasai Reddy and former chief priest Dr AV Ramana Deekshithulu. Speaking to media here on Monday, Chengalrayulu said that the withdrawal of the case emboldens people with vested interests to make wild allegations maligning the reputation of TTD, which administers the world famous Lord Venkateswara temple, Tirumala.

He reminded that Vijayasai Reddy to derive political mileage went to the extent of alleging that the pink diamond sold in the international market for Rs 500 crore and implicated former chief minister in the murky deal unmindful of denting the image of TTD and hurting sentiments of devotees at large while Deekshithulu went further urged devotees stop offering kanukas in Lord’s Hundi. Recalling the circumstances that led to TTD filing defamation case against the two, he said that the TTD, to put an end to the barrage of wild allegations from the two, was compelled to file defamation suit paying Rs 2 crore as court fee from its funds which is nothing but pilgrim money to save TTD’s image. Against this backdrop, he said TTD decision to withdraw

## PINK DIAMOND ROW

- Ex-MLC and TDP leader Chengalrayulu says TTD’s decision to withdraw the case against YSRCP leader Vijayasai Reddy and former chief priest Ramana Deekshithulu will encourage others to make wild allegations against the TTD
- The court postpones the hearing on the defamation case to Nov 16 after directing TTD to file a counter on a petition opposing the withdrawal
- A Hyd-based religious organisation files a plea to implead in the case opposing the TTD move to drop the case



the case is not proper and also unethical. The former MLC also wanted the government to take steps for CBI inquiry into the alleged missing of pink diamond of Lord Venkateswara to put the mystery shrouding the precious ornament to an end, as demanded by Vijayasai Reddy when he was in opposition. Meanwhile, the X Additional Sessions Court here on Monday postponed the hearing on the defamation case to November 16 after directing TTD

to file a counter on a petition opposing the withdrawal. Hyderabad based-Hindu Chaitanya Welfare Association president Lalit filed the petition to implead in the case opposing TTD move to withdraw the case. It may be noted that TTD trust board at its meeting on February 29 this year, took the decision to withdraw the defamation case but the decision came to light only in October before the court hearing the case.

## Vahana Mitra amount credited to beneficiaries

### AMARAVATI

MINISTER for civil supplies Kodali Venkateswara Rao (Nani) on Monday credited Rs 11.5 crore to 11,501 beneficiaries under YSR Vahana Mitra scheme second phase of second year, covering those who could not make it in first phase. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, in his election manifesto had promised Rs 10,000 financial assistance to auto, taxi and maxi drivers/owners. After coming into power, the state government, through YSR Vahana Mitra scheme, released Rs 10,000 financial assistance each to 2,36,343 beneficiaries on October 4, 2019 for 2019-20 financial year and for second time 2,61,975 beneficiaries received financial assistance on June 4, 2020 four months in advance in wake of the corona lockdown. The minister said the state government had given one month time to people who were left out to apply and now all those 11,051 are provided with financial assistance. A financial assistance of Rs 510 crore was given to auto, taxi and maxi drivers/owners in two years. Additional 40,000 people have benefited through this scheme as compared to previous year.

# TDP demands CBI probe

- Former Minister N Md Farooq alleges that the wife of the Salam was sexually harassed by the accused cops
- Seeks dismissal of the accused police personnel

## HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI:

FORMER minister and TDP senior leader N Md Farooq accused the YSRCP government of trying to ‘wash its hands off’ the intimidation and sexual harassment that led to the death of all four members of a Muslim family in a suicide pact in Nandyal in Kurnool district. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Farooq demanded that the government to dismiss the CI, SI and the constable who were responsible for driving Abdul Salam to suicide along with his wife Noorzahan and two children. It was a horrific tragedy as the couple tied up their children with ropes and threw them under a moving goods train while doing it themselves. The TDP leader said that the suicides took place only after two-three months of mindless harassment by the police. It did not stop at that. The constable and the police officials sexually harassed Salam’s wife by daily calling her to attend before them.

## NANDYAL SUICIDE

## To call for Chalo Nandyal stir

### AMARAVATI

TDP official spokesperson Nagul Meera on Monday alleged that the ruling YSRCP leaders in Nandyal had extended all support to the persons who harassed and abetted the suicide of Abdul Salaam and his whole family there. Meera said that the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government was weakening and undermining the entire police force in the state without allowing the officials to discharge their duties in a free and fearless manner. There was political interference in respect of the false cases filed against the ill fated Salaam family also. In a statement here, the TDP

He said Salam and his wife were also beaten up in lock-up. The police did not listen even when he said that he did not steal any jewellery from the gold shop where he had worked for over 25 years. Farooq deplored that unable to bear harassment, Salam gave away his wife’s jewellery to the police but he was not spared even after that. He started running an autorickshaw to feed his family. Again, the police booked another case by filing a false complaint. “Fed up with this, Salam family ended their lives. The government should dismiss the guilty police officials and it cannot just suspend them for one or two months.

leader said their party would give a call for ‘Chalo Nandyal’ protests soon to ensure justice for the deceased family. The government was trying to escape from its responsibility of bringing the guilty to the book by giving financial assistance. This would be of no use since all the family members ended their lives because of the unbearable harassment, he said. Meera deplored that in the past 18 months, the YSRCP regime has become unpopular for its misdeeds and atrocities. There was no effort on the part of the ministers to do even a small amount of good to the society, he remarked. The DGP should conceded the demand of the Muslims JAC for a CBI investigation into the circumstances leading to the Salam family suicide. The case should be referred to a fast track court,” the TDP leader said. Farooq said that Salam’s wife was an educated woman and was working as a teacher. She was sexually harassed. A similar incident took place in Rajahmundry also but the government had not taken any action. Stating that the Muslims were suffering on all fronts under the YSRCP regime, Farooq said that the YSRCP government stopped giving all benefits to the Minorities in the past 18 months.

# People violate safety norms with decline in Covid cases

## V PRADEEP KUMAR TIRUPATI

THE declining trend in the Covid positive cases in the district seems to have led to the negligence among the people on the minimum precautions to be taken. The SMS campaign by the district medical and health department along with civic authorities to educate people on the importance of social distance, wearing of mask and sanitising hands with the slogan ‘Maske Kavacham’ was also going in vain. The use of masks and social distancing have almost taken a back seat especially during unlock 4.0 and 5.0 as many people can be seen outside without

masks. The ongoing padayatra undertaken by the ruling party in various constituencies have completely ignored social distancing with people moving so closely and majority of them were not even wearing masks. TDP leaders in fact were questioning how they were given permission to conduct padayatra at this stage when Covid norms were in vogue. They recalled the police denial with the same reasons for their padayatra in Kupam recently. Unfortunately, Tirupati Rythu Bazar has become another danger zone with no seller wearing masks. So too some buyers and even supporting staff there. As the market is normally filled with crowds in the mornings,

there is every possibility of spreading the virus to many people. It may be noted that the Covid cases though reduced in numbers still around 300-400 cases have been reporting daily. The total cases have crossed 83,000 with 805 deaths so far. Though the district has about 2,000 active cases presently, officials were saying that the situation is still alarming and only protective measures can save people from the Covid. Speaking to The Hans India, DM&HO Dr M Penchalaiah said that wearing a mask and social distancing are the essential things to be followed by each and everyone. He warned police will impose fines on those not wearing masks.



BIZ BRIEFS

PTC India Q2 net down

POWER trading solutions provider PTC India on Monday reported a 3.8 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 193.64 crore in the September quarter, mainly due to lower wind power generation by one of its arm.The company had posted a net profit of Rs 201.35 crore in the September quarter a year ago. Total income rose to Rs 6,011.39 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 5,235.66 crore in the same period last year. The company's board of directors in its meeting held on Monday declared an interim dividend of Rs 2 per equity share for fiscal year 2020-21. Low wind profile (generation) for a wind project of the company's subsidiary PTC Energy Ltd led to the decline in net profit, PTC India said.

GoMechanic in Hyderabad

GOMECHANIC announced the launch of its franchise store for spare parts in Hyderabad. It will distribute its entire range of multi brand products through this franchise outlet. The brands available include GoMechanic Spares, Mobil, Gulf, Monroe, Bosch, Valeo, Purolator, Livguard, Lumax, LUK, NGK, Subros and Eurorepar amongst others. Nitin Rana, co-founder, GoMechanic, said, "We are thrilled with the response we have got from our other franchise outlets in the recent past. Hyderabad is a new market for us, but our industry experience and exposure suggests that Hyderabad is a high-potential and a very important market for businesses like us. Our aim is to provide swift and affordable solutions to all our customers."

IRDAI sets up committee

INSURANCE sector regulator IRDAI has set up a working group to revisit product structures of engineering tariffs relevant for the retail category in the wake of continuous advancement in technology.The nine-member panel has been asked to revisit the product structures of the erst-while engineering tariffs relevant for the retail category and make suitable recommendations for revising them. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) noted that with continuous advancement in technology, engineering insurance requirements are constantly evolving. Customer expectations regarding insurance are changing significantly. "There is a need to modify the current products under the engineering retail segment in line with the changing needs and demand," it said. The panel has been asked to recommend new suitable and appropriate standard products in line with advancements in technology for the retail segment.

Scentido opens new outlet

SCENTIDO which operates a chain of stores for niche fragrances opened its outlet in Hyderabad. Shishir MehtaFounder & CEO said, "Scentidois a result of the passion that we would like to share with the fragrance lovers in India. It is for those who enjoy a taste of the finer things in life. We are proud to house some of the rarest fragrances and extend them to the discerning consumers in the city of Hyderabad to explore the sensorial journey with niche fragrances from all over the world."We will continue to introduce newer niche brands for the consumer to explore and love, he added.

Mkt scales new peak on Biden win

Sensex vaults 704.37 pts to its lifetime peak of 42,597; Global rally helps markets

MUMBAI

INDIAN benchmark indices surged to record highs on Monday, mirroring a rally in global markets as investors wagered on improved trade relations and more fiscal stimulus under a Joe Biden presidency in the US. Rising for the sixth straight session, the BSE Sensex vaulted 704.37 points or 1.68 per cent to close at its lifetime peak of 42,597.43. Intra-day, it touched its all-time high level of 42,645.33. The previous closing record for the Sensex was 41,952.63, hit on January 14, 2020. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 197.50 points or 1.61 per cent to finish at its all-time high of 12,474.05. It hit its record level of 12,474.05 during the day. IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 4.95 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC Bank. Only three index constituents closed in the red -- ITC, Maruti and Bajaj Finserv, slipping up to 0.66 per cent. World markets marched higher after Biden was declared the winner in the tightly-contested US election, though President Donald Trump



has yet to concede the race.

Toning down of trade war rhetoric and a likely sharper focus on combating the Covid-19 pandemic in the US augur well for equities, analysts said.

"Firm global cues and a clear majority to favourite Democratic Party in the US election took main benchmark indices to all time high. The rally in the domestic market was also led by banking and finance stocks on improved business outlook post Q2 results, end to moratorium and bounce back of economic activities," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Broader market has shown under-performance compared to headline peers as investors feel safer chasing heavyweights during

Investors get richer by ₹2 lakh cr

NEW DELHI

INVESTORS became richer by over Rs 2 lakh crore on Monday as equity markets jumped 704.37 points or 1.68 per cent to close at its all-time high of 42,597.43. Following the rally in the market, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms rose by Rs 2,06,558.75 crore to Rs 1,65,67,257.92 crore. "Markets started the week on robust note and made a new record high, taking cues



from global indices. The reaction was mainly in response to the news of Joe Biden winning the US presidential elections," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Choice Broking Executive Director Sumeet Bagadia said, "Tracking positive global cues over US presidential election outcome, Indian bourses traded at all-time high level. Strong foreign inflows and hopes over US stimulus lifted the domestic market sentiments."

metal, finance, consumer durables and tech indices rallied up to 3.81 per cent, while healthcare ended in the red. Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rose up to 1.01 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended up to 2.12 per cent higher. Stock exchanges

₹ slips 7 paise to close at 74.15 vs \$

MUMBAI

THE rupee gave up intra-day gains to settle 7 paise lower at 74.15 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking weaker Asian peers against the greenback. Higher crude oil prices also put pressure on the Indian currency. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the domestic currency opened higher at 73.95 a dollar and gained further strength to touch a high of 73.83 during the day. It, however, could not hold on to the gains and finally settled at 74.15 against the greenback, 7 paise lower over its previous close.

in Europe were also trading with robust gains in early deals.

FPIs purchased shares worth a net Rs 4,869.87 crore on Friday, according to provisional exchange data. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.26 per cent higher at \$40.34 per barrel.

BIDEN WIN

Crude prices may touch \$45-\$55 per barrel soon

MUMBAI

COMPARED with a second term of the Trump administration, a Biden presidency could be positive for US oil and gas drillers because tougher regulations on hydraulic fracturing would likely reduce production, raising crude prices to levels of WTI \$45-\$55 in coming months after elections, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said on Monday.

The increase in crude prices is likely on account of the Biden pledging to end new drilling on public lands and move towards a carbon-free future.

This would mean fresh production would be curbed resulting in falling oil inventories, pushing up the prices.

According to the brokerage, the greatest domestic impact could come from a promise by Democratic Biden to stop issuing drilling permits for federal land and waters, which would shrink US oil production by up to 2 Mb/d by 2025. Easing permitting for pipelines and other energy infrastructure has been central to Trump's deregulatory agenda, although with limited success on the highest profile projects.

Equity MFs continue to see outflows on profit booking

Investors have withdrawn ₹2,725 cr from equity MFs in Oct

NEW DELHI

EQUITY mutual funds witnessed an outflow of Rs 2,725 crore in October, making it the fourth consecutive monthly withdrawal, on profit booking by investors.

All the equity schemes, barring large- and mid-cap and sectoral funds, have seen outflows, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Monday. However, investors put in over Rs 1.1 lakh crore from debt mutual funds (MFs) last month after pulling out over Rs 51,900 crore in September. Overall, the MF industry witnessed a net inflow of Rs 98,576 crore across all



While there are new investors who are investing in the markets, the existing investors continue to book profit given the surge in the equity markets across segments in the recent times

segments during the period under review, against an outflow of a little over Rs 52,000 crore in September. The positive inflow from debt funds pushed the asset under management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry to record Rs 28.22 lakh crore at the end of October, from Rs 26.86 lakh crore at the end of September.

According to the data, outflow from equity and equity-linked open-ended schemes was at Rs 2,725 crore in October, much higher than the Rs 734 crore outflow seen in September. The equity schemes had witnessed an outflow of Rs 4,000 crore in August and another Rs 2,480 crore in July, which was their first withdrawal in over four years. Prior to this, such schemes had attracted Rs 240.55 crore in June. The net outflows in October could be largely attributed to profit booking by investors on the back of surge in equity markets, said Himanshu Srivastava, associate director (manager research) at Morningstar India.

"The number of folios as well as funds mobilised during the month was higher than September, however, at the same time, the redemption amount too shot up," he added.

L&T Fin board gives nod for ₹3k cr rights issue

MUMBAI

THE board of L&T Finance Holdings on Monday approved raising Rs 3,000 crore through rights issue. The company in its regulatory filing on Monday said for the purpose of giving effect to the rights issue, the detailed terms in relation to the issue, including the issue price, rights entitlement ratio, record date, timing and terms of payment will be determined in due course.

"The board approved the offer and issuance of fully paid-up equity shares of the company for an amount not exceeding Rs 3,000 crore by way of a rights issue to the eligible equity shareholders of the company as on the record date," it said.

At 11.34 a.m., the shares of L&T Finance Holdings were trading at Rs 67.05, lower by 0.81 per cent from its previous close.

‘Global economy will remain fragile in 2021’

Moody's says govt debt-to-GDP ratios will be higher in large advanced economies

NEW YORK

GLOBAL credit conditions are likely to improve overall in 2021, aided by unprecedented fiscal and monetary policy support in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday. However, the initial, rapid economic rebound is giving way to a patchier, weaker recovery, as the pandemic proves hard to contain.

In a new report, Moody's examined six key themes that will shape the credit environment in the year ahead: uneven recovery, policy challenges, rising debt levels, digital transformation, environmental impact and social trends.

"The vast policy support from the governments since the start of the crisis will propel a

stronger economic recovery in advanced markets than in many emerging markets, and business and operating conditions will continue to be steadier for sectors that have more easily adapted to the pandemic-related disruption," said Moody's Associate Managing Director Elena Duggar.

"However, even in countries that have managed to minimize the public health crisis, below-normal external demand and a slow rebound in services sectors will dampen the pace of the recovery."

Co-working space market likely to cross 50 mnsq ft

MUMBAI

INDIA'S co-working space market is likely to cross 50 million square feet by 2023, according to a JLL report. It said that flexible space is likely to will grow by an average of around 15-20 per cent per annum over the next three-to-four years, although this trajectory will not be linear. Currently market penetration of flexible spaces into India's total office stock stands at 3 per cent.

"The country is expected to witness deeper penetration, throughout 2021 and beyond, the flex space market is forecast to grow at a slower pace and more organically. Irrespective of several short-term disruptions and challenges, increased demand from large enterprises, will support the growth of the flex space market to more than 50 million square feet by 2023," it said.

"Flex space operators have changed the face of commercial real estate with their in-



novative offerings. This market is projected to grow at a steady pace throughout 2021 and beyond," said Ramesh Nair, CEO & Country Head (India), JLL.

The market penetration of flex spaces into total office space is likely to see a gradual increase from the current 3 per cent to 4.2 per cent by 2023, he said "We expect this growth to continue, driven by demand, profitability and return-profile for investors, albeit at a slower pace resulting from the impact of Covid-19," said Nair.

At present, Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR together account for more than 50 per cent of the flex space stock in India, with Bengaluru housing around 10.6 million square feet of such spaces.

Hyderabad with 4.5 million square feet and Mumbai with 4.3 million square feet of flex office stock follow. According to JLL, Hyderabad and Pune are currently among the fastest-growing markets in the country.

PASSENGER VEHICLE RETAIL SALES DIP ON SUPPLY WOES

Entry-level motorcycles witnessed a lean demand during October: FADA

NEW DELHI

AUTOMOBILE dealers' body FADA on Monday said passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in October witnessed a year-on-year decline of 8.8 per cent to 2,49,860 units, as registrations slowed down owing to supply issues.

According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which collected vehicle registration data from 1,257 out of the 1,464 regional transport offices (RTOs), PV sales stood at 2,73,980 units in October 2019. Two-wheeler sales declined 26.82 per cent to 10,41,682 units last month, as compared to 14,23,394 units in October 2019.

Commercial vehicle sales also slipped 30.32 per cent to 44,480 units, as against 63,837 units a year ago. Similarly, three-wheeler sales fell 64.5 per cent to 22,381 units last month, from 63,042 units in the year-ago period. Tractor sales, however, grew by 55 per cent to 55,146 units last month, against 35,456 units in the same month last year. Total sales across categories declined 23.99 per cent to 14,13,549 units, last month compared to

“With supply-side mismatch, most of the passenger vehicle dealers ended up with limited stock of high selling items and odd variants, which did not attract much demand. This coupled with lower discounts, compared to last festivals also played a spoilsport

- FADA President Vinkesh Gulati

18,59,709 units in the year-ago period. Commenting on the sales data, FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said the Navratri period witnessed robust vehicle registrations but could not save October to go in red as compared to last year when both Navratri and Diwali were in the same month. While new launches continued to be in demand in the passenger vehicle segment, entry-level motorcycles witnessed a lean demand in the two-Wheeler segment, he added.

"With supply-side mismatch, most of the passenger vehicle dealers ended up with limited stock of high selling items and odd variants, which did not attract much demand. This coupled with lower discounts, compared to last festivals also played a spoilsport," he noted. Gulati said that while small commercial vehicles were witnessing robust demand due to local goods transportation back to pre-Covid levels, the medium and heavy commercial vehicle segment continued



# AGRI COURSES BY PRIVATE COLLEGES UNDER CLOUD

- Lack of NAEAB-ICAR accreditation might pose a problem for students
- Students studying in non-NAEAB colleges may not be admitted to PG courses by the universities

VRC PHANIHAN  
HYDERABAD

QUESTIONS have been raised over the prospects of hundreds of students studying agriculture courses in private colleges of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. According to sources in the higher education departments of both the States, several private colleges have been seeking permissions to start B Sc general and honours courses in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and fisheries.

The colleges have sought approvals to start undergraduate, diploma and certificate courses in agriculture and allied fields. They wanted to start these courses as part of vocational education. While some have already



got approvals, few others are in the queue. In Telangana too, some colleges have shown interest to launch the agriculture courses like their counterparts in Andhra Pradesh.

"Some colleges wanted to test waters by launching agriculture and allied courses after engineering courses are losing their sheen. Particularly, the popularity of agriculture and allied sectors have gone up in Telangana after the State government started giving top priority to that sector. Also, the Andhra Pradesh is taking a slew of measures to

give a fillip to the agriculture and allied sectors. Besides, the Centre has also come up with a mission to make agriculture profitable to farmers. This is all set to catch up with students from science backgrounds at an intermediate level to opt for admissions into agriculture and veterinary sciences. Hoping large scale opportunities waiting for them in the sector," the sources said.

However, the catch here is that the colleges will have to get accreditation from the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB) within

two years of launching the courses.

Speaking to The Hans India, sources in the Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University, Guntur and Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University (PJT-SAU), Hyderabad said, "NAEAB is the apex accreditation agency of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). The colleges will have to get NAEAB accreditation. Failing, they may not be admitted in the master programmes at the university level. Besides, students studying agriculture and allied courses in non-accredited institutions may also face problems in getting good job opportunities. It might also pose a problem for the State governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to treat them eligible for government vacancies in the agriculture and allied sectors," they pointed out.

Currently, the PJTSAU, Telangana and Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University, Guntur and eight more colleges alone have the NAEAB accreditation in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

## Minister visits martyred jawan's family, turns emotional

NIZAMABAD

ROADS and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy said that the services of Rada Mahesh, who was killed in an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir, will not go waste. On Monday, the Minister visited and consoled Mahesh's family members at Komanpalli village of Nizamabad district. He became emotional and shed tears while consoling Mahesh' family members. The family would be taken care of by the government, he assured. Minister Prashant Reddy spoke with the Army office officials at Hyderabad about conducting the funeral rites of Mahesh at Komanpalli village.

# Dharani will put an end to ownership woes: KTR

Residents of Uppal colonies meet the Minister at Pragathi Bhavan to thank him for resolving their issues



MAUD Minister K T Rama Rao addressing the residents of 20 colonies of Uppal at Pragathi Bhavan, on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

MUNICIPAL Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Monday said that the government would solve the ownership of land and revenue issues in various colonies in the city and provide the property right to the owners. The residents of about 20 colonies in Uppal came to Pragathi Bhavan to thank the Minister for resolving their issues. Addressing the residents, Rama Rao said that it has been

advantageous for the residents of the colonies to de-notify the colonies like KCR Nagar. The government was ready to solve the issues of the residents in other colonies, said the Minister. Rama Rao said that the Dharani portal would help in getting details of every inch of land in the city and it would also provide ownership rights to residents. There would be no chance of irregularities and it would help take up transactions of the properties in future. The registra-

tions would be done in a transparent, fast and corruption-free manner with the Dharani portal, the Minister added.

He further said that the government was focusing on issues one after another and was going with commitment on traffic, drinking water and other issues. Development of Telangana and comprehensive development of Hyderabad was possible only under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, he said.

## PUBLICATION OF LIST OF POLLING STATIONS SOON

# No change in polling booths for GHMC elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE polling booths in the GHMC limits are likely to remain same as were in 2016 elections, the State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi informed during the meeting with the civic body officials on Monday.

He said that it would be easier for the voters to identify their polling booths if they are continued in the same areas as in the previous elections.

He added that the State Election Commission would soon issue notification for the publication of the list of polling stations in the Greater Hyderabad limits.

The SEC said that the deputy commissioners would have to make all the arrangements right from the date of notification of polls till the completion of the election process. Parthasarathi said that he would not tolerate any delay.

He said that the deputy commissioners have the responsibility to ensure there are no mistakes in the final list of voters, which would be released on November 13. Every voter's name should be on the list and no voter should face inconvenience, said the Commissioner.

The Commissioner said that the deputy commissioners will have the responsibility to prepare route maps, know about zones, material

and others before the polls and they should clear the doubts of returning, presiding officers.

They should get acquainted with the rules of the Election Commission like guidelines, circular etc.

The SEC said that there should be a 24X7 control room in every circle, zone and head office and they should publicise them to the people. He asked officials to provide basic amenities at distribution, reception and counting (DRC) centres and also ensure the Covid rules are followed by all.

He also wanted the officials to have basic amenities in polling centers. There should be wheelchairs and ramps at the polling stations, he stressed.

## Eatala reviews construction of AIIMS Bibinagar Hospital

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

HEALTH Minister Eatala Rajender stressed on coordination between State officials and AIIMS administration for speedy grounding of the prestigious medical institute.

He was addressing at a review meeting held at AIIMS, Bibinagar campus on Monday. The Minister discussed at length on AIIMS hospital construction works and management issues. The Minister di-

rected the Health Secretary SAM Rizvi to ensure that water supply, building construction and other issues are taken care of. AIIMS Director Vikas Bhatia informed the Minister about details of academics and students pursuing study in the prestigious institute.

AIIMS Governing Body member Banda Prakash, Administrative Officer Lieutenant Colonel Anantha Rao, Medical Education Director Dr Ramesh Reddy and NIMS Director Dr Manohar were present on the occasion.

## Centre urged to share details about Covid vaccine

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

SEEKING more support to Telangana, Health Minister Eatala Rajender has requested Union Minister Harsh Vardhan to share all details concerning the vaccine and also information on supply and priority with the State.

Union Minister for Health Harsh Vardhan praised efforts taken by Telangana in the fight against Covid-19. The Union Minister held a review meeting through video conference with the Health Ministers of all States to take stock of the present situation. The Union Minister appreciated the steps being taken by the State in many respects. Participating in the meeting along with senior health officials, Eatala briefed the Minister about tests done so far, positivity, recovery and fatality rate etc.

"We tested 1/8th of State population i.e. nearly 48 lakh tests have been done in Telangana. Only 5 percent of it was positive. As many as 2.5 lakh positive cases were registered out of which 19,000 are active cases at present. The death rate is 0.55 per cent," informed the Health Minister.

"We are doing corona tests at district hospitals and CHCs, PHCs and also at Sub-centers everywhere. There is no shortage of oxygen in our State and liquid oxygen cylinders are available in all hospitals. Only 12-15% of the beds in the designated covid hospitals are occupied at present. We made all sorts of arrangements to deal if there is jump in corona cases in the coming days. Our staff is so ready," he added.

## Jagapathi Babu, Sunil become green warriors

Plant a sapling as part of Green India Challenge



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HYDERABAD

ACTOR Jagapathi Babu took part in the Green India Challenge (GIC) on Monday along with Rajya Sabha MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar and planted a sapling on the premises of his residence, Lodha Apartments, Kukatpally. He was nominated by actor Naga Showrya.

Jagapathi Babu felt that global warming was because of reduce in greenery, and the simple step of planting

saplings can avoid the major catastrophe. He thanked Rajya Sabha MP for initiating and taking forward the GIC. He asked everyone to participate in the GIC and help in increasing the greenery, which is needed in every part of man's life. GHMC Mayor Bonthu Rammohan and GIC organisers graced the occasion. Meanwhile, Tollywood comedian Sunil also accepted Green India Challenge and planted a sapling at his residence in Hyderabad on Monday.

## Provide aid to flood-hit immediately, BJP to govt

WARANGAL

BJP State spokesperson Rakesh Reddy questioned Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao as to why the government didn't extended monetary help to those affected by floods in Warangal like it was done in Hyderabad. Speaking to the media in Warangal on Monday, Rakesh Reddy said lakhs of rupees were given to flood victims in Hyderabad. But no help was extended to the victims in Warangal, though the district had experienced floods much before the capital city, he pointed out. The BJP leader questioned why the government is neglecting the people of Warangal.

## Cong sees ₹ 200 cr scam in flood fund distribution

AICC national spokesperson Sravan Dasoju says TRS does politics on dead bodies of flood victims

- Demands for keeping the list of flood victims in the public domain
- Questions why cash compensation was not given to farmers affected in floods

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

AICC national spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju fired salvos at Industries Minister KT Rama Rao for the failure of government and the GHMC to provide the list of beneficiaries of Hyderabad flood victims despite multiple requests having been made.

While denying the allegations levelled by KTR, he invited him for an open discussion at the Telangana Martyr's Memorial to discuss the wide-



AICC national spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju addressing the media in Hyderabad on Monday

spread irregularities involved in the distribution of flood relief funds in Hyderabad. Despite having 100 corporators like Kauravas in GHMC, TRS miserably failed to rescue the people of Hyderabad during

the floods and currently looting the public money, he alleged. The AICC leader criticised the TRS party for resorting to ugly mud politics and collecting money on the dead bodies of flood-hit victims through dis-

## Four killed in road mishap

KARIMNAGAR

FOUR members of a family died on the spot in an accident near Venkatpur village of Korutla mandal in the early hours of Monday. According to sources, G Srinivas of Mallapur mandal along with his members went to Jagtial bus stand in a car to give send off to his brother-in-law Chandramohan, who was going to Dubai. When they were returning to their house near Venkatapur village, suddenly one of the car tyres busted and hit a lorry on national highway between Jagtial and Nizamabad near the village. Srinivas' wife Latha (30), Chandramohan's wife Rama Devi (29), his son Charan (4) and his daughter Shanvi (2) died on the spot. Srinivas' son Srijan and his daughter Shirisha survived with injuries and they were shifted to Karimnagar Government Hospital.

## State HC allows AP govt to pay money to Agri Gold depositors

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

A division bench of Telangana High Court on Monday heard a batch of petitions filed by Telangana Agri Gold Depositors and Agents Welfare Association and others seeking a CBI probe into Agri Gold scam and return of the money to over 32 lakh depositors spread across several States, including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The division bench comprising Justices MS Ramachandra Rao and Challa Kodandaram has allowed the Andhra Pradesh government to pay the depositors under Rs 20,000 (Rupees Twenty Thousand only).

The Telangana High Court allows Andhra Pradesh government to pay the depositors who deposited less than Rs 20,000

### LEGAL NOTES



Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Subramaniam Sriram informed the Court that Central Investigation Department will collect the details of depositors through Ward Secretariat. The

details collected will be examined by CID DSP and concerned Revenue Divisional Officer. Secretary of the District Judicial Service Commission, Collector, CID SP will certify the applications. For eligible depositors, the government will deposit the amount in the bank accounts of depositors through the concerned Collector, AG said.

The Telangana High Court has directed the AP government to complete the distribution process by March 31. A petition has been filed by the TS government to transfer the Agri Gold

case to the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The bench held that the administrative power to transfer the case would be vested with Chief Justice of Telangana High Court. AP Advocate General sought two weeks deadline, for which the High Court bench consented.

Meanwhile, Andhra Bank and the State Bank of India brought to the notice of the High Court that their petitions on assets auction were pending. The High Court bench replied that it will hear the matter on November 12, 2020.



# Mumbai look for 'High Five', Capitals eye 'Spe-

DUBAI

THE unmatched legacy and hegemony created by the 'galacticos' of Mumbai Indians will be thoroughly challenged by a young Mumbaikar Shreyas Iyer, who will lead a passionate-but-unpredictable Delhi Capitals in a cracker of an Indian Premier League final here on Tuesday.

After 52 days of the most closely-contested and widely-watched edition played on alien land in the backdrop of the raging COVID-19 pandemic, the BCCI can pat itself for pulling off a near flawless tournament that gave people a chance to withdraw from prime time negativity that dominated the air space. And now, it's the coronation time with IPL's most successful skipper Rohit Sharma itching to win his fifth title amid a stormy couple of weeks.

On the other hand, the Capitals, a team that had flattered to deceive for a dozen editions, will finally realise its potential on the grand stage of T20 cricket. There hasn't been too many editions where the two most deserving teams squared off in a summit clash unlike this edition where Mumbai reached the finals winning 10 out of their 15 games while Capitals, despite a slump, managed to triumph in nine out of their 16 games. There haven't been too many teams that have shown the flair and balance of Mumbai Indians, an envy for any opposition.

Sample this scary piece of statistic and one can gauge the might of Mumbai Indians. In all, their players have hit 130 sixes compared to Capitals' 84. Quinton de Kock's panache has a foil in Rohit Sharma's style although proving a point to all and sundry about his hamstringing injury would also be on the Indian's mind. Suryakumar Yadav's (60 boundaries and 10 sixes) epic

"I am there" gesture after a league game against RCB is now a part of the MI folklore and the elegant way of handling fast bowlers has only exponentially increased his fan-base.

Ishan Kishan, in his five and half feet frame, has managed to hit an astounding 29 sixes while Kieron Pollard is a bonafide legend with 190 plus strike-rate. If Kagiso Rabada (29 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (20 wickets) get rid of this lot, DC will have to deal with the Pandya brothers -- the cool Krunal and the flamboyant Hardik -- both of whom are imposing and capable of striking muscular hits.

Shikhar Dhawan (603 runs), who has enjoyed his best IPL, will have to do something out of the ordinary to tackle the yorkers from Jasprit Bumrah and those vicious

incoming deliveries from Trent Boult, which will tail in at the last moment.

In the three contests this season, Mumbai Indians have blown away Capitals in one-sided affairs but all will come to a naught if Iyer, a quintessential Mumbaikar, can ensure that his team are fourth time lucky.

The second qualifier showed that they have somewhat found their ideal combination with Marcus Stoinis' all-round game (352 runs and 12 wickets) and ability to open the innings bringing in the required balance. Shimron Hetmyer's six-hitting prowess will also be required considering that Iyer and Rishabh Pant haven't exactly fared for the better part of the tournament.

Another big factor for the Capitals could be Ravichandran Ashwin's quality as a Powerplay operator. A crafty Ashwin can always alter the length and check how much of an impact his bowling would have on Rohit's hamstringing if he tries to dance down the track.

The sub-plots and little battles within are going to be enticing. These include a young captain Iyer trying to show his wares, Ricky Ponting stamping his credentials as an astute tactician, and Suryakumar ensuring that chairman of selectors Sunil Joshi eats a humble pie. IPL final will

Marcus Stoinis of Delhi Capitals celebrates the wicket of Kane Williamson of Sunrisers Hyderabad during IPL Quali-



## Stoinis' slower deliveries hold the key against MI

NEW DELHI

WHILE Delhi Capitals' (DC) Marcus Stoinis the batsman clicked as an opener against SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) in Qualifier 2, it was Stoinis the speedster who finally sealed the game for DC on Sunday.

SRH batsman Kane Williamson was on verge of taking the game away from DC, before Stoinis brought his team back into the match with an off-cutter that scalped the New Zealand captain and tilted the balance towards his team.

Williamson had made 67 off 44 balls before he was dismissed. Earlier, Stoinis had scalped another in-form batsman Manish Pandey with a similar delivery.

In Tuesday's final too, Stoinis's variations will hold the key if DC are to contain MI's power-hitters like Kieron Pollard, Hardik and Krunal Pandya.

"My thought process was to change my grips and see what I was getting out of the wicket and change my tactics with wide yorkers and slower balls," said Stoinis after Sunday's match. "Bowling in this format is always hard. It is all about planning before you get to the ground, you have to get a good idea, you are speaking to your captain and coach, and different batsmen in your strategy."

Stoinis, who gave away just under nine and picked three wickets in Sunday's game against SRH, has had a decent outing with the ball this season. He has now picked 12 wickets at 21.66, his best bowling average in his IPL career. This is apart from the 352 runs he has got with the bat for his side.

Stoinis feels the key is to build pressure with the ball. That comes with dot balls. Of the 166 deliveries he has bowled in this IPL, 47 have been dot balls. It has also helped the team's and his cause that DC's two strike bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje feature among the top five with most dot deliveries this season.

"Important to stick to your strengths. In T20, you are not often taking wicket but also control the run rate and control the game, build some pressure with which u get some wickets," Stoinis added. (IANS)

### TEAMS

#### Mumbai Indians

Rohit Sharma (captain), Aditya Tare, Anmolpreet Singh, Anukul Roy, Chris Lynn, Dhawal Kulkarni, Digvijay Deshmukh, Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, James Pattison, Jasprit Bumrah, Jayant Yadav, Kieron Pollard, Krunal Pandya, Mitchell McClenaghan, Mohsin Khan, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Prince Balwant Rai,

#### Delhi Capitals

Shreyas Iyer (c), Kagiso Rabada, Marcus Stoinis, Sandeep Lamichhane, Ishant Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shikhar Dhawan, Shimron Hetmyer, Alex Carey, Mohit Sharma, Prithvi Shaw, Lalit Yadav, Avesh Khan, Axar Patel, Tushar Deshpande, Rishabh Pant, Harshal Patel, Keemo Paul, Amit

## Purple Cap with Rabada, Orange stays with KL

ABU DHABI

SOUTH African pacer Kagiso Rabada has once again taken over the Purple Cap from Mumbai Indians fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah following his four-wicket spell against SunRisers Hyderabad which helped Delhi Capitals enter the finals of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) edition.

On Sunday evening, Rabada returned with figures of 4/29 to take his overall tally to 29 wickets from 16 matches. Bumrah is second on the list of leading wicket-takers with 27 wickets from 14 matches. Trent Boult completes the podium with 22 wickets to his name.

Meanwhile, Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul continues to lead the list of leading run-scorers. Rahul, with 670 runs, holds the Orange Cap. He is followed by Delhi opener Shikhar Dhawan who has 603 runs to his name. Dhawan on Sunday scored 78 runs which helped Delhi set a 190-run target for SRH which the Shreyas Iyer-led side defended successfully at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium to enter their maiden IPL final.

The left-handed batsman will have a chance to get past Rahul when Delhi faces Mumbai in the summit clash on Tuesday evening.

SRH skipper David Warner, with 548 runs from 16 matches, is third on the list. (IANS)



KOLKATA

JAMAL Bhuyan, who led Bangladesh against India in the 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup Joint Qualifier first year, has revealed that the entire team was charged up ahead of the game and he had an added task of marking his Indian counterpart Sunil Chhetri.

While the Bangladesh captain went about his duties neutralising the talismanic Indian forward, he had also managed to play a role in his side taking the lead in the first half, as he provided the assist for Saad Uddin to nod in a free-kick. The Indian team responded via Adil Khan in the second half as the teams shared the spoils.

"Sunil is an icon and a legend in India. He's scored so many international goals, so we always had our eyes on him. The coach and I spoke about the game and he told me, 'You have to stop Sunil'," recalled Jamal while speaking to the-aiiff.com.

"So I was focusing on not letting him get any chances. Whatever move he made, I went with him. My job that day was to cut him off from the rest and frustrate him," he added.

Bhuyan is now all set to return to the City of Joy where he will be playing for newly promoted I-League side Mohammedan SC.

"An offer from the I-League is very good for me. So when Mohammedan Sporting approached me I asked around to know more about their rich history," Jamal said.

"They just earned promotion and now want to win the League. I felt that that is the kind of intent I want to play with, and that I can make an impact there. I am looking forward to playing at Mohammedan," he added.

The 14th edition of I-League will kick off on January 9 next year in Kolkata. Eleven teams will need to enter the bio-secure bubble 14 days prior to their first match according to the schedule, which has still not been announced.

## Chhetri is an icon and legend in India: Bhuyan

## Defenders still can't stop 39-year-old Ibra

MILAN

LAST week it was an acrobatic overhead winner that belied his 39 years. This week it was a towering header in stoppage time that secured AC Milan a 2-2 draw with Hellas Verona on Sunday and a two-point lead atop Serie A entering the international break. Game after game, Zlatan Ibrahimovic keeps showing that his markers are defenseless against him inside the penalty area.

So much so that Ibrahimovic was asked if he thought that Italian defenders had dropped in level in the eight years between his first and second stints with Milan. "Or maybe Ibra is stronger," was his reply, with a laugh.

The Swedish great scored braces against Bologna, bitter rival Inter Milan in the derby, and Roma this season. His eight goals in five matches -- he missed two games after testing positive for the coronavirus -- top the Italian league's scoring chart. "I think he can play until he's 45 in our league," retired Italy defender Giuseppe Bergomi said last weekend.



## Kohli to go on paternity leave after one test in Aus; Rohit added

NEW DELHI

IN what is possibly the first instance of a male cricketer getting paternity leave during a Test series, especially a high-profile one, the Indian cricket board on Monday announced that it had allowed skipper Virat Kohli to return home after the first Test against Australia in Adelaide.

Kohli's wife, actor Anushka Sharma, is due for delivery in January and the batting mainstay had asked for leave from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The first five-day Test begins on December 17. However, there is no clarity on whether or not Kohli would return for the remainder of the four-Test series as the BCCI did not clarify this in the press release.

In Kohli's absence, India will be led by vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane in the remaining three Test matches, as per the established practice of vice-captain taking over the reins in absence of the captain. The selectors did not respond to questions from IANS on this.

The BCCI also announced the inclusion of Rohit Sharma in the Test side. He will, however, be rested for the ODIs and T20 International preceding the Tests.

Sharma's exclusion had led to controversy and left the BCCI red-faced, as the day the board



president Sourav Ganguly said he was injured, Sharma turned up for his Indian Premier League franchise Mumbai Indians to play the last league match against SunRisers Hyderabad.

### REVISED INDIAN SQUADS

**T20Is:** Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul (vice-captain and wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, T Natarajan

**ODIs:** Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul (vice-captain & wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper)

**Tests:** Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper), Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj. (IANS)

## Injured Trent out of England matches

Manchester: Defender Trent Alexander-Arnold will miss England's upcoming Nations League games after picking up an injury during Liverpool's 1-1 draw against Manchester City in the ongoing Premier League, manager Jurgen Klopp has confirmed. The defender was forced from the field after 63 minutes at Etihad Stadium City on Sunday after pulling up with an issue during the 1-1 draw against City. Klopp stated Trent will be ruled out of England's fixtures with Ireland, Belgium and Iceland during the international break, with the Reds awaiting further diagnosis following a scan on Monday. (IANS)

## Starc returns to Sydney Sixers

Sydney: Australia pacer Mitchell Starc has signed with Sydney Sixers for the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) edition, ending a six-year absence from the league. His availability will be determined on Australian selection in the Test squad for the series against India, with those Sixers players selected for the entire series likely to be available for the last three games of the regular season, and the finals series. Starc was part of the inaugural Sixers squad that won the first ever BBL trophy in the 2011-12 season and played 10 matches for the club from 2011-2015.

## Medvedev wins Paris Masters

Paris: Russia's Daniil Medvedev has clinched the Paris Masters title following a hard-fought three-set victory over Germany's Alexander Zverev in the summit clash. Medvedev defeated Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 that also ended the German's 12-match winning streak on Sunday. The Russian, who was contesting his first final of 2020, had to survive some outrageous rallies before he secured the third Masters 1000 crown of his career. "It's great, I'm really happy. As I always say, I don't celebrate after the match but I'm really happy to win matches," Medvedev, who now owns eight titles in total, said. (IANS)

# 'Asian Champions Trophy will show the level we're at'

BENGALURU

INDIAN men's hockey team midfielder Sumit Kumar feels the Asian Champions Trophy, which will be their first assignment since the outbreak of novel coronavirus, will be a perfect platform to test where the team stands.

The team is scheduled to play the tournament in Dhaka, early March next year provided there are no travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have been very fortunate to resume training and we have been provided with a bio-safe environment by SAI and Hockey India to hone our skills. The Asian

Champions Trophy next year will show the level we are at and how much we will need to further improve ahead of the Olympic Games," said the midfielder who was part of the Indian team that won the Junior World Cup in 2016.

Having missed out some important tournaments last year due to a wrist-injury, the midfielder is eager to compete and wear the India jersey.

"I had suffered a wrist injury during the FIH Men's Series Finals in Bhubaneswar last June. It was a long road to recovery and I was happy to have been picked for the FIH Hockey Pro League ear-

lier this year where I got to play against top teams," said Sumit.

"To make the Indian team, one has to be really good in executing what is expected of us and there is good internal competition. For now, I am giving my 100 per cent in training and I look forward to hopefully playing in the Asian Champions Trophy and defending our title next year," he added.

Speaking of the ongoing national coaching camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility, Sumit said the team is making progress and is headed in the right direction.

"Though we won't be competing this year due to the pandemic,

the sessions are planned in such a way that we play matches against each other where we are expected to bring out our best," said Sumit who comes from Sonapat.

"We have something called as red sessions which are high intensity sessions and I can tell that we are in much better form both mentally and physical than when we started out in August after mandatory quarantine," he added. (IANS)

