

Womenia

TWEET PATROL

RAKUL SINGH @RAKULPREET
New YouTube video

CELEBRATING KARWA CHAUTH WITH SONG

ASKARI JAFFER

DELHI-BASED Megha Choprais all set to release her new album “Karwa Chauth Katha” a celebration of womanhood and purity of Karwa Chauth fast. The aim of the video is to deliver the values of Indian culture and tradition to every woman this Karwa Chauth.

Though passionate about dancing and singing since childhood she has donned various avatars. After completing engineering from Kurukshetra University in 2003, she did her MBA from NMIMS, Mumbai and while studying she got actively involved in her family business running under the name Pachranga International which is world renowned for pickles. Later, she successfully launched the brand “ghar se” catering to the export market under the umbrella of the parent company.

After her family life getting settled with children becoming independent and her career taking a backseat, she followed her passion and launched her own YouTube “Megha o Megha” in 2019. She started uploading her dancing and singing videos out of which one of them reached 1.6 lakh viewership.

Megha shares, “Law of attraction as they say—Manytimes I had visualised myself donning headphones, clenching a mic close to my lips and rendering my voice to my most loved songs. Mid-November 2019, I just walked up to my cousin’s state-

of-the-art studio and manifested my dream. I was elated with the outcome and decided to further upload it on YT-hence the genesis of Megha o Megha.”

Megha says, “Nowadays there is a lot of resistance and reluctance amongst friends and family to come together and celebrate Karwa Chauth with the same zeal as past years. To recreate that magic and infuse the festive fervor that defines us Indians, she decided to narrate the katha in her own style.”

“Singing, dancing and writing are the three passions of my life besides with my husband and children, and all these 6 facets of my life form one complete unit. Professionally I may have done my first cover in December 2019, but I have always been appreciated by my friends and family as a passionate performing artist,” concludes Megha.



Megha is all set to release a new album based on 'Karwa Chauth' on her own YouTube channel

Kajal Aggarwal looks radiant in a lime-green lehenga

Kajal looked stunning in a beautiful lehenga by designer Anita Dongre for the Gaur Pooja ceremony. A hand-embroidered lehenga was custom created for Kajal inspired by the couple’s favourite holiday destination, Villa d’Este in Italy. She completed her look with a matching embroidered potli and jewellery by Anita Dongre Pinkcity.



Dress up in your fusion best

Karwa Chauth is that one day every year when you show your man how deep your love is. This year make him fall for you all over again with your trendy, on-point fusion dresses by limeroad that truly fit this occasion. -LimeRoad



Self-design top with solid flared skirt set

The new festival-dress code is all about keeping it classy, minimalist and sophisticated. This deep red skirt with a subtle festive shimmer does just that.

Angrakha block print kurta
Red, being the colour of love, is an evergreen favourite for this occasion. Pair this red block-print kurta with any golden, bronze bottom and statement-ethnic earrings and you're sure to steal the heart of your loved one.

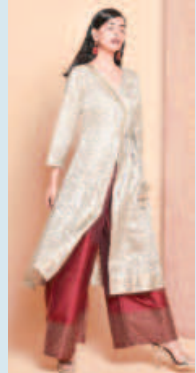


Zari self-design brocade flared skirt

From Karwa Chauth rituals to larger-than-life parties, there can't be a better choice than this rich, maroon and red zari brocade-flared skirt. A pair of polka earrings and a sleek bun are all you need to raise some eyebrows.

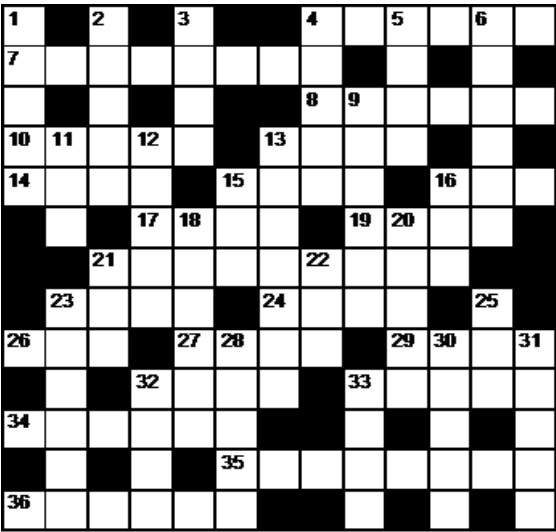
Angrakha block print kurta

This super trendy off-white, gold block print kurta is the perfect blend of a traditional print with a modern cut. Pair this with a pair of classy palazzos that will make you shimmy the night away.



Embroidered A-line kurta

A bright pop of colour is just what you need to add some sizzle to your day of fasting. This orange A-line Kurta with embroidered borders will make heads turn wherever you go.



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

Across

Down

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 3

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 3

Green tea for beauty skin

GREEN tea is known throughout the world for its medicinal and health benefits. Green tea leaves stem from the Camellia Sinensis plant and have been used for its healing properties in the Asian culture for over thousands years. In recent times, one can see the increased usage and talk around the benefits of green tea on skin.

On further research, it was observed that green tea contains certain polyphenols and anti-inflammatory properties which provide several skin benefits. Some of the major benefits of green tea on skin are:

Treats dry and flaky skin

Active ingredients in green tea help in treating dry and flaky skin. It provides moisture and evens the skin tone. Drinking green tea or external application of products rich in green tea help in treating conditions such as psoriasis.

Reduces inflammation

Green tea contains anti-inflammatory properties and catechins which reduce skin irritation and helps in treating dermatitis. The signs of redness, itching and red patches on your skin are signs of increase in inflammation in your skin. Drinking at least one-two cups of green tea in a day, reduces inflammation and the antioxidants present in the green tea help you to attain healthy looking and glowing skin.

Slows down ageing

Catechins EGCG that are present in the leaves of green tea and other anti-carcinogenic properties in the tea leaves help to slow down the ageing of skin. They reactivate the dying skin cells in the skin, keeping your skin young and fresh. People who have been consuming green tea regularly for years, agree to an overall improvement in their skin.

Helps in treating oily skin

Green tea contains tannins that help in shrinking pores which reduces the secretion of sebum oil. The problem that people with an oily skin type face is that their pores secrete higher amounts of sebum oil which later on mixes with dirt and bacteria and causes irritation and acne. Drinking green tea dries the pores internally, thus leaving you less prone to get acne.

Exfoliating properties

Dried green tea leaves have an abrasive texture. You can reuse the boiled green tea leaves from your drink to make a DIY face mask, that will ensure to exfoliate your skin gently. This homemade facial scrub will help to eliminate dead, rough skin cells as well as excessive pollutants and oil that it contains.

Provides protection from sun

Green tea is high in anti-inflammatory and antioxidants, which helps in reducing the damages that long exposure in the sun causes. Research shows that drinking 1-2 cups of green tea is highly effective in soaking up all these benefits and helps you fight the irritation of long hours outdoors. One can also use SPF protection which contains green tea extracts for application benefits.

Reduces acne and blackheads

The polyphenols in green tea, when applied to the skin, help reduce sebum secretion, which can lead to acne. The antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties in green tea may make it an effective treatment for acne and oily skin. This means that green tea can be a useful tool for controlling bacterial growth that can cause acne and blackheads.

-Dheer Shah, CEO, Samaara Tea



Labourers unearth two high-value diamonds

PANNA

TWO labourers became millionaires after they unearthed two diamonds weighing 7.44 and 14.98 carats at mines in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, an official said on Tuesday. Dilip Mis-



try extracted the 7.44 carat stone from a mine in Jarua-pur, while Lakhan Yadav mined a 14.98 carat one in Krishna Kalyanpur area, diamond inspector Anupam Singh said. The stones were deposited at the diamond office on Monday and will be auctioned off, the official said, adding that the labourers would get the proceeds after a deduction of 12.5 per cent royalty. While the exact value of the diamonds will be decided by the authorities, the stone weighing 7.44 carat will fetch around Rs 30 lakh and the bigger one will fetch double the amount, he said.

UAE PM receives Covid vaccine shot

DUBAI

UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum received a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine on Tuesday. Sheikh Mohammed shared a picture on Twitter of him getting vaccinated by a medical staffer. Sheikh Mohammed said, "While receiving the Covid-19 vaccine, we wish everyone safety and great health, and we are proud of our teams who have worked relentlessly to make the vaccine available in the UAE. The future will always be better in the UAE." A number of UAE ministers also took the vaccine over the past few weeks. The UAE has authorised the emergency use of the vaccine as part of the country's measures to protect health workers in close contact with Covid-19 patients and ensure their safety, and that it was fully aligned with the regulations and laws that allow a faster review of licensing procedures.



Over 50 Qaeda-linked terrorists killed in Mali

BAMAKO

THE French government said Monday its forces had killed more than 50 jihadists aligned to Al-Qaeda in air strikes in central Mali. The offensive took place on Friday in an area near the borders of Burkina Faso and Niger, where government troops are struggling to rout an Islamic insurgency, French Defence Minister Florence Parly said after meeting members of Mali's transitional government. "On October 30 in Mali, the Barkhane force conducted an operation that neutralised more than 50 jihadists and confiscated arms and material," Parly said, referring to the French-led anti-jihadist Operation Barkhane. She added that around 30 motorcycles were destroyed. Parly, who earlier met Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou and her Nigerien counterpart Issoufou Katambe before heading to Bamako, said the operation was launched after a drone detected a "very large" motorcycle caravan in the "three borders" area. When the jihadists moved under trees to try and escape surveillance, the French force sent in two Mirage jets and a drone to launch missiles, leading to the "neutralisation" of the insurgents, Parly said.



Rescue worker pulls out a young girl alive from the rubble of a collapsed apartment building in coastal city of Izmir, Turkey, four days after a strong earthquake hit Turkey and Greece

MP BYPOLLS: 66% TURNOUT

BHOPAL

AMID reports of violence at a few places, an estimated 66.28 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 6 pm on Tuesday in the crucial bypolls to 28 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, an official said. One person was injured in stray incidents of violence, police said.

The average voting percentage in the 2018 assembly polls in these 28 constituencies, most of them in the Gwalior-Chambal region, was 72.93, the official said. The polling figure of 66.28 per cent was provisional and it will be updated later, he said.

A total of 355 candidates, including 12 ministers, are in the fray in these bypolls. Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia cast their ballots at a booth in Gwalior district. As the voting progressed, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached the BJP office in Bhopal in the afternoon and held discussions with party leaders.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath and other senior Congress leaders, including Digvijaya Singh, monitored the polling from a control room set up at the State party office in the state capital.

53.28% polling in Guj

An overall 53.28 per cent polling was recorded in by-elections in eight Gujarat Assembly seats till 5 pm on Tuesday, Election Commission data said.

The highest 70.12% polling was in the tribal region of Dangs, followed by 63.94% in Kaprada. Limdi registered 54.35 per cent polling and Gadhada 46.69% by 5 pm.

Dhari registered the least 42.18% polling among all eight constituencies, and Morbi 50.34 per cent. No updates were available for Abdasa and Karjan constituencies.

51.2% in UP

The average voter turnout in the by-elections to seven Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday was 51.2 per cent at 5 p.m., as per the figures released by the state electoral office. The highest voting percentage was reported from Naugawan Sadat (57 per cent) and lowest was from Ghatampur (47 per cent).

Polling was held amidst tight security, following the safety protocols of Covid-19, and no violence was reported during the polling.

₹1L cr money laundering case: NBWs against 4

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court issued non-bailable warrants against four accused in a money laundering case in which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had earlier arrested alleged hawala dealer Naresh Jain. The case is linked to dubious transactions of worth over Rs 1 lakh crore made using over 550 shell firms over the last few years.

The court issued NBWs against Bimal Kumar Jain, Puneet Jain, Harish Aggarwal and Kuldeep Singh after the agency said that they are absconding. Additional Sessions Judge Kiran Gupta passed the directions while taking cognisance of a charge sheet filed by the ED in the case.

The court also issued production warrant against Naresh Jain, who was arrested on September 1 and is currently in judicial custody. The court will further hear the matter on December 2. "There is prima facie sufficient incriminating material about the involvement of the accused persons," the court said while taking cognisance of the charge sheet.

Row over KBC question BNP MLA seeks action against Big B

MUMBAI

A BJP MLA in Maharashtra on Tuesday approached police seeking action against megastar Amitabh Bachchan and makers of TV show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 12' for allegedly hurting Hindu sentiments. Abhimanyu Pawar, BJP legislator from Ausa in Latur district, in a complaint to Latur SP Nikhil Pingle said action should be taken against Bachchan and Sony Entertainment Television over a question asked during Friday's Karamveer special episode. "There was an attempt to insult Hindus and create discord between Hindus and Buddhists who have been living in harmony," Pawar tweeted, posting a copy of his two-page letter to the police official. The episode had social activist Bezwada Wilson and actor Anup Soni in the hot seat opposite Bachchan, who asked the following question, worth Rs 6.40 lakh: On 25th December 1927, Dr B R Ambedkar and his followers burned copies of which scripture? The options were: (A) Vishnu Purana (B) Bhagavad Gita, (C) Rigved and (D) Manusmriti. Bachchan then said, "In 1927, Ambedkar condemned the ancient Hindu text Manusmriti to ideologically justify caste discrimination and untouchability and burned its copies." "All the four options pertained to Hindu religion. It is clear that the motive behind this question was to hurt the sentiments of Hindus," Pawar said in his police complaint. "This question spreads the message that Hindu religious scriptures are meant for burning and triggers enmity between Hindus and followers of Buddhism," said Pawar, who was a close aide of Devendra Fadnis while he was Maharashtra chief minister. The KBC episode question annoyed some netizens who accused the show of running a "leftist propaganda", while others said it hurt Hindu sentiments.



Seven forms of mild Covid-19 identified

LONDON

Scientists have shown that there are seven "forms of disease" in mild COVID-19, and that the novel coronavirus infection leaves behind significant changes in the immune system even after 10 weeks, findings which may aid in the treatment of patients, and in the development of a potent vaccine. In the research, scientists, including those from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria, identified seven groups of symptoms including "flu-like symptoms" with fever, chills, fatigue and cough, "common cold-like symptoms" with rhinitis, sneezing, dry throat and nasal congestion, and "joint and muscle pain". They said patients may also experience "eye and mucosal inflammation" symptoms, "lung problems" with pneumonia and shortness of breath, "gastrointestinal problems" including diarrhoea, nausea and headache, and "loss of sense of smell and taste and other symptoms".



India's active cases fall below 5.5 lakh

Achieving a significant milestone in the fight against coronavirus, India's active COVID-19 cases have fallen below 5.5 lakh and now comprise merely 6.55 per cent of the total infections as the number of recoveries crossed 76 lakh, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The slide in active cases is supplemented by an exponential rise in recoveries, it said. The total number of recoveries has surged to 76,03,121 and exceed active cases by 70,61,716, the ministry highlighted. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has further escalated to 91.96 per cent. The ministry said new infections reported in a day have fallen below 40,000 as India registered a daily rise of 38,310 new cases on Tuesday. The country had reported 36,470 new cases in a span of 24 hours till 8 am on October 27.

Delhi Govt asks police to ensure cracker-free Diwali

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government on Tuesday appealed to all district magistrates, police and 11 teams of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to ensure a cracker-free Diwali in the national capital to curb pollution levels. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai made the appeal while launching anti-cracker campaign. He appealed to Delhiites to use green crackers and not the polluting kind.

"As per the directions of the Supreme Court, polluting crackers have been banned in Delhi and only pollution-free green crackers have been allowed this year. From Tuesday, an anti-cracker campaign has been launched in Delhi. All the SDMs, 11 teams of the DPCC and all police officials have been directed to ensure there is no bursting of polluting crackers across Delhi," Rai said, while visiting city's Sadar Bazaar to inspect the sale of crackers in the wake of the campaign. For implementation of the campaign, the minister said, the teams are ensuring that the crackers sold must have a 'Green Cracker' logo on them and the crackers sold in the shops must be from authorised companies.



Debbie Sorensen drops her ballot into a box in Salt Lake City, in Utah, US, on Monday

OTP must to get LPG cylinder refilled

NEW DELHI

ALL you need to know if you are someone who gets your Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) gas cylinder delivered at home, please take note of this new rule. Customers will be required to furnish a one-time-password (OTP) to get their LPG Cylinders. Oil companies will implement the Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) for the customers opting for home delivery of LPG Cylinders. DAC is already underway in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It will be implemented in 100

smart cities first.

Customers who want home delivery of their LPG cylinders will get a code on their registered mobile number. Successful delivery of LPG Cylinders will only take place when the customers provide the OTP Code to the delivery person.

For the convenience of the customers, Indian Oil has started one common number for Indane LPG refill booking. LPG refills common booking number for the entire nation is 7718955555 and it is a 24x7 service for the customers.



Rajiv assassination case: SC unhappy over convict's pardon plea

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed unhappiness over the pendency of a plea by a convict seeking pardon in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case for over two years with the Tamil Nadu Governor. The top court asked the counsel for petitioner A G Perarivalan, who is serving life sentence, whether the court can exercise its jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution to request the Governor to decide his plea of pardon filed under Article 161. Article 161 empowers a Governor to pardon a convict in any criminal case.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi said, "We don't want to exercise our jurisdiction at this stage but we are not happy that recommendation made by the government is pending for two years". The bench was

hearing a plea of 46-year-old A G Perarivalan who has sought suspension of his life sentence in the case till the CBI-led Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) probe is completed. During the hearing, the bench told senior advocate Gopal Shankarnarayanan, representing Perarivalan, that "the Governor has to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers. But if the Governor does not pass order, what the court can do, you tell us".

It asked Shankarnarayanan to apprise the court as to how it can request the Governor to take decision and what are the laws on the issue. The top court then asked advocate Balaji Srinivasan, appearing for Tamil Nadu, as to why the state gov-



ernment cannot request the Governor to pass order without any specific order from this court? Srinivasan said that Governor had sought report of the MDMA. The bench then told ASG K M Nataraj, appearing for Centre, as to whether any

request has been made by the state to send the report of MDMA.

He replied that the larger conspiracy probe is going on and the investigation is spread over various countries like in United Kingdom and Sri Lanka. The bench told the ASG that the larger conspiracy theory is to find out if any other person, besides those convicted in

the matter, are involved in this. "It is not with respect to those who are convicted and are in jail. You look at it," the bench told Nataraj, adding that the larger conspiracy probe is pending for almost 20 years. It said that even after almost two decades

Decide on release of 7 convicts: Oppn

Main Opposition party DMK and PMK on Tuesday urged Tamil Nadu Governor to expeditiously decide on the release of the seven Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convicts. DMK President M K Stalin, citing the displeasure of the top court on the matter, said "the Governor should expeditiously take a decision on the release of 7 convicts, including Perarivalan."

of probe in the larger conspiracy aspect, the Centre is saying that it is in the process of getting response for Letter Rogatories (letters of request from a court to a foreign court for some type of judicial assistance) sent to various countries.

Sharp rise in mfg output good sign

Reflecting the gradual recovery in India's Covid-battered economy, GST collections crossed Rs 1 lakh crore mark and stood at Rs 1.05 lakh in October. It was the first time in the last eight months that the inflows from indirect taxation moved past the psychologically important mark. Further, the GST revenue last month was 10 per cent higher when compared to the same month a year ago. In October 2019, GST collections were Rs 95,379 crore. The indirect tax collections took a hit and registered a steep fall as the lockdown imposed in the last week of March this year to contain Covid-19 spread, took a heavy toll on the economy. The October tax data reveals that the economic activity across the country picked up post the unlocking.

The manufacturing activity for October also indicated a positive traction in the economy. As per data released on Monday, the IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) zoomed to a 13-year high of 58.9 last month from 56.8

recorded in September this year. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 indicates expansion, while a score below that means contraction. Owing to Covid-induced economic crisis, the index contracted in April. Prior to that, it remained in growth territory for 32 consecutive months. The PMI survey also indicated a strong upswing in input buying. That shows that companies are confident of sustained sales growth.

However, there is a worrying factor in the PMI data. Payroll numbers continued their downward trajectory in October as well, as some companies went ahead with more layoffs. On the brighter side, inflationary pressures remained subdued. This could be gauged from the fact that there was a modest escalation in input costs and marginal rise in selling prices.

But it's unlikely that similar momentum will continue in this key sector in coming months unless the central government initiates more stimulus measures. In the wake of lockdown restrictions and due to Covid-induced economic crisis, consumers post-

poned their non-essential purchases during the past several months. With the unlocking and gradual rise in economic activity, consumers are slowly increasing their spending. So, the pent-up demand is driving the sales, leading to rise in the manufacturing activity. However, there is a danger of lower sales once pent-up demand dries up. Further, there is also another danger of India witnessing a second wave of Covid-19 as currently being witnessed in Europe.

The International Monetary Fund's Chief Economist Gita Gopinath, in her article in a global financial daily, underlined the need for the policy-makers around the world to extend more fiscal stimulus to boost economic growth. According to her, the global economy is in a liquidity trap and efforts should be made to pull it out of the trap. She has pointed out that central banks have little room now to cut interest rates to boost growth. Her observations are more apt for India as our economy suffered a staggering 23.9 per cent contraction in the first quarter. More stimulus measures are need of the hour to boost GDP growth in India as RBI is not in a position to cut interest rates due to rising inflation.



Does coronavirus spread more easily in cold temperatures?

Unfortunately, we will only learn exactly how changes in the weather affect the pandemic by living through it

SARAH PITT

Why is the reported number of COVID-19 cases rising across Europe now? Many countries ended their full lockdowns at the start of the summer, but it wasn't until the autumn that most places began to see a significant increase in the spread of the virus again. The re-opening of schools and universities led to greater mixing of individuals from different households, but could the fall in outside temperatures also be playing a part?

We know that more people get colds and flu in the winter (the colds can be caused by types of coronavirus), but there are several potential reasons for this. It's often attributed to the fact that people spend more time indoors when it's colder, coughing, sneezing and breathing on each other.

You are more likely to choose the option of travelling on a crowded bus or train than walking or cycling to work when the weather is cold and wet. Another theory is that people produce less vitamin D when there is less sunlight and so have weaker immune systems.

However, studies have shown that the annual increase in colds and flu particularly coincides with when the temperature outside and relative humidity indoors are lower. Flu viruses survive and are transmitted more easily in cold, dry air. So it's reasonable to think that the same may be true for the COVID-19 coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which has a similar size and structure.

Laboratory experiments with coronaviruses and similar viruses have shown that they do not survive well on surfaces when the temperature and relative humidity are high, but comfortable room temperature could be an ideal environment for them to last for several days. And at refrigeration temperatures (4°C) and low relative humidity, they could last a month or more.

As it happens, there have been repeated reports of outbreaks of COVID among workers in meat-packing factories, which operate under these kind of conditions. However, such factories also contain large numbers of people working close together and shouting to be heard above the noise of machinery, which evidence suggests may be more likely to spread the virus. Their shared living conditions may also encourage transmission.

The lessons from the other coronaviruses that have appeared during the 21st century (SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV) also tell a slightly different story. A study tracking the weather during the 2003 Sars epidemic in China suggested that the peak of the infections occurred during spring-like weather conditions. (There was no way of confirming this through follow-up studies since the virus later died out.)

Regular outbreaks of Mers also happen in the spring (March to May) in the Middle East. However, this may be less to do with the weather and more related to camel biology. Humans can acquire Mers from each other or from camels. Young camels are a major source of infection and new animals are born during March.

Southern hemisphere

We can also look at what happened in the southern hemisphere during winter there. South Africa has reported over 700,000 cases and experienced a large peak in July, but New Zealand controlled the infection very well and had fewer than 2,000 cases of COVID-19.

These two countries are very different in many respects, so it's not that useful to directly compare them. But it does seem like the colder weather during July and August was probably not the main factor in deciding their infection rates. New Zealand seems to have kept the spread of SARS-CoV-2 at bay due to geography, the quality of the healthcare system and the effectiveness of the public health response. It might have been able to do that whatever the weather.

Early data from Australia suggested that low humidity would be a factor to look out for and was a better guide to risk of increases in COVID-19 than temperature. However, in Melbourne, there was a large outbreak in July coinciding with a spell of cold weather. This led to a strict lockdown, although it was only fully eased in October.

In all, it seems like a good idea to be prepared for more COVID-19 cases during the colder months. But the one thing we have learned for sure from SARS-CoV-2 is that new viruses can surprise us.

We also know that coming into close contact with others provides an opportunity for the virus to spread, whatever the weather. So we must keep physical distance between people who do not live in the same household and continue to wear face coverings in enclosed spaces whenever possible.

Unfortunately, we will only learn exactly how changes in the weather affect the pandemic by living through it.

(Courtesy: Down to Earth)

Scam 1992 sets new standards for biopics

VINOD MIRANI

In the last few years, a trend has been set to make biopics in the Hindi entertainment industry. There were a few biopics made earlier but, the choice was limited. As, either the real heroes of India were kept away from the public knowledge or were too regional to appeal for moviegoers all over India.

Notwithstanding the public awareness about our heroes, a few films did make the merit list. V. Shantaram made one of the earlier biopics, "Doctor Kotnis Ki Amar Kahani". The audience today may or may not have the patients to watch it in one go. In those days, going to film was about taking in all that was projected on the screen. If a film had anything short of 16 or 17 reels, as the film's length was defined in those days, the viewer felt short-changed. Which justifies why the cinema halls could screen only four shows per day unlike six to eight that the multiplex screens do today, as now the films usually have duration of around 100 minutes.

A time came when a biopic had to be made more acceptable, for which they needed to be dramatised. Just take the theme and the essence of the character and make it filmy, in other words, watchable. I think "Shaheed" (1965), starring Manoj Kumar, set the tone. Manoj Kumar was also said to be the brain and motivator behind this film. And, as a keen observer of the filmmaking vis-a-vis the audience preference, he knew the value of casting as well as music that matched the subject.

He is said have insisted on casting the legendary actor Pran as Daku Kehar Singh without whom he would not make the film. For Pran, who played a villain in all his films, this film showed another aspect and the versatility of the great actor. It also took the viewers by surprise and those who have seen the film would understand why. As for the musical score, the songs in the film, Manoj Kumar let the composer-lyric writer Prem Dhawan loose with patriotism in its full glory.

The film is considered a milestone. All other attempts at glorifying the great icon, Bhagat Singh, have not amounted to much before the Manoj Kumar film, or the ones that followed later. For a long time, the patriotism led to making films on nationalist heroes. But, no such fervour remained when more films on Shaheed Bhagat Singh followed, the ones that were made later were made because the industry had no writers to pen new stories. Yet, everybody needed a subject. So the choice was biopics. Also, making a film on a hero like Bhagat Singh or other national figures did not cost a dime to acquire rights.

There was such a desperation that in 2002, two major films on Bhagat Singh were being made, one starring Ajay Devgn and the other with Bobby Deol and both vying to hit the screens first! Oh, and there was one more, Ramanand Sagar's simply titled film, "Bhagat Singh", also released in 2002. Since there were no takers, as far



as I remember, it was released on the LCD medium. And finally there was the Sonu Sood-starrer "Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh", also in the same year.

Imagine four films on Bhagat Singh in a year! All four failed to draw the audience. If this is a close-knit industry, how come four makers ended up making a film on same subject? That was just what I found to be an interesting aside on the trend of biopics, which was to take off bigtime in the days to follow.

Why did we not have many biopics earlier? We did not because we did not have winners, and we did not have the kind of media we do today that made a winner larger than life. Media is necessary because, usually, our heroes' deeds are never put on paper. The media is the only source to put together their achievements.

We have had many biopics since the trend started. A couple have worked because they used nationalism to stir the viewers. The example is "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag" which, were it not for the staunch detractor, Pakistan's President, endorsing the real life character of Milkha Singh as a Flying Sikh after he outran his Pakistani competitor. The protagonist's achievement at the international level was limited and even the film was longwinding and tedious. But, it sailed through.

Compared to this, "Paan Singh Tomar" had a better script, greater performances led by Irrfan, and was much closer to life. It was a hit but the media remained oblivious. The media noticed Irrfan's talent and versatility only when his health started failing him!

One more example of using nationalism to touch the hearts of the audience was "Dangal". By now, thanks to the media, people were aware of the wrestlers, Phogat sisters. But, whoever thought of using the Indian National Anthem at the end, pushed the film to a blockbuster level. The film was released at the end of 2016 and the spirit of nationalism was back in India for almost three years.

Dramatising or using some master key is a must for a biopic. For example, we had two films on great cricketers, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Sachin Tendulkar. (Now, these are biopics where the makers have to pay in crores for the rights to the con-

cerned subjects of the biopic). While the one on Dhoni was a big hit, the one on Sachin went unnoticed. Why would that be?

That is because, while the Dhoni script was written like a film script with romance, setbacks and triumphs, Sachin's was more of a documentary kind. Sachin himself indulging in self-pity about his struggles. In case of Dhoni movie, all his struggles, losses, and rise were narrated as a story, not verbally.

Then there have been films like "Raazi". That film would seem to be a major work of imagination and penmanship. Because, the author of the story has been on record saying that he never got a chance of talking in detail to the real person who the actor Alia Bhatt represents on screen.

However, the masterstroke was to script a Muslim patriot's daughter taking up the challenge to infiltrate a Pakistani army family and that too a Kashmiri girl! Such are the things that make a film work.

But now, filmmakers have a bigger challenge. Just one OTT streaming programme, "Scam: 1992", has redefined the way a biopic is structured and executed, so that it turns out to be captivating and captures the imagination of a nation full of varied tastes and languages!

Initially, the makers stuck to making biopics on political leaders and films on Patel, Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr Ambedkar, Veer Savarkar, Manmohan Singh, Thackeray, Anna Hazare, Dr Baba Amte, or Narendra Modi. But, there were no takers for these. The only biopic that worked internationally was Attenborough's Gandhi. Sadly, in India it met with mixed reaction. While the English version did well, the dubbed Hindi version did not do so well.

Shekhar Kapur was assigned to direct a book based biopic on Phoolan Devi, The Bandit Queen. Though much acclaimed, the film faced hurdles as Phoolan Devi filed a court case, causing the film to be withdrawn from the cinema halls. By the time the matter was settled, the film had lost steam and could not do the business it was expected to do when it opened.

Now, in the last few years, a lot of biopics have been made. Some were

aimed straight at the box office and their scripts were reworked so as to just use the basics of the real story and dress it up as a commercial project. "MS Dhoni: The Untold Story" and "Pad Man" are examples. But "Chhapaak", "Maanji: The Mountain Man", "Manto" etc seemed more about winning awards. Then, there were a few that glorified the villains of society, like "Races", "Daddy", "Veerapan" and "Rakht Charitra" and such. Nothing justified making films on such characters and, as expected, they were total duds at the box office.

Now, the trend of biopics has moved to the OTT streaming platforms. Two earlier ones were "Shakuntala Devi" and "Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl". While "Shakuntala Devi" failed to catch eyeballs, "The Kargil Girl" made some news due to its controversial content as few observed so. But, that is about it.

Now comes a biopic that redefines the concept totally. That is "Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story". Of course, the makers had the advantage of basing it on a book, "The Scam: Who Won, Who Lost, Who Got Away", by journalists Sucheta Dalal and Debashis Basu, who followed the story as it happened.

"Scam 1992" is a case of perfect casting. Despite having so many characters, each fits the bill. Yes, this is also about a criminal, a white collared fraudster, who gave birth to the term Scam in India. And, no, it does not glorify the protagonist, the share broker, Harshad Mehta. The serial, though stretching to about 500 minutes spread over 10 episodes, manages to narrate the rise and fall of Harshad Mehta. The approach is matter of fact. Despite being a dry subject of share market, it is crisp and holds the viewer's interest all through.

Scam 1992 sets the new standards for those planning on a biopic. No more taking the viewers for granted. The first to face this comparison will be "Big Bull", starring Abhishek Bachchan, also reported to be on the same scam involving Harshad Mehta.

(Vinod Mirani is a veteran film expert and trade analyst. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

Hard-hitting editorial

Heartly congratulations to The Editor for communicating the heartburn of Telugu people. The editorial very correctly analysed prevailing situation in Telugu States. Congress hurriedly introduced Telangana bill, BJP leaders shouted from roof of Parliament for 10 years SCS to AP. Congress was out of office later and the BJP leaders conveniently forgot election promised made in Tirupati. BJP leader simply said that he asked for 10years SCS in the heat of situation but he knew it was a jumla.

Enough damage was done during 4 years long Honey-moon TDP had with BJP. 1 year Dharmagraham of TDP after miscarriage or misarrriage resulted in exit of TDP. YSRCP, in spite of having full knowledge about sanctity of temporary relationships is trying to be in good terms with ex-partner of TDP? Telugu pride and long-term Telugu interests are at stake due to temporary interests of leaders. It's very good of THI to express the concerns of Telugu people, be they in Telangana, AP, Tamil Nadu or anywhere.

G Sivaramakrishna, Hyderabad

Dhaba dhamaka

It is sad that because of the Youtuber the Dhaba owner Kantar Prasad in Malviya Nagar in Delhi drew a large number of customers to his eatery. In fact after seeing the news story, I was feeling happy that someone who was in distress would happily continue to run his eatery.

It seems some greedy family member or vested interest person is attempting to misguide him and in the process spoiling the image of someone who has come to his help. Is this because the owner got too much publicity suddenly which has changed his behaviour? No wonder many public spirited citizens are wary of helping those in distress due to fear of such accusations.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Use latest mikes on SVBC channel

The daily classical music and dance performance on the Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel began as a daily offering to the Kaliyuga deity on the Nada Nee Rajanam stage. Despite performing on such an important stage, outdated mikes of yesteryears are used by the SVBC channel. Especially when the artists show the protagonists in close-up most of their faces are covered by that mikes, with which the audience are missing to see the faces of the artists. We urge the SVBC channel heads to use the latest remote micro-mikes and to put an end to the large stand mikes now in use.

C V R Krishna, Hyderabad

Horrible crime

The shooting of 22 innocent students, including 10 women, at the Kabul University in Afghanistan is a horrific act. Two gunmen fired a volley of bullets and took dozens of hostages after a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the campus. The attack marked the second time in less than two weeks the terrorists targeted an

educational institution in the capital. With violence surging across Afghanistan and the Islamic State group claiming responsibility for the attack, the Afghan authorities would do well to be on their toes.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Covid-19 and banking sector

The ex-governors of RBI while releasing a book titled "Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy" by Tamal Bandyopadhyay opined that the problem of rising of NPAs in the banking industry is real and big. The present pandemonium has a great effect on the NPA, the actual rise of NPAs as of March 2021 will be known at the end of the financial year 2021 will definitely be an unhealthy one. The government as well as RBI are aware of this fact, but the efforts of reducing them are not adequate. On one hand the government was unable to provide capital to the PSBs as its finances are scuppered and on the other the credit disbursal was shrinker which paves the way to losses.

Instead of thinking seriously of NPAs management the government amalgamated the banks which is not at all the need of the hour except raising the work of the banks as was opined by many experts. As Dr Y.V.Reddy said the pandemic has put a great strain on the financial sector and the fiscal problem spills over on to the banking.

TSN Rao, Bhimavaram

thehansreader@gmail.com

Boating operations set to resume across State

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government will soon resume the boat operations and the officials were directed to re-store all 195 boats with fresh licences after conducting a full-fledged fitness check.

Addressing a press conference here, tourism minister Muttamsetti Srinivas Rao said that all the boats under the tourism department will start their operations soon based on the flood levels in rivers.

Boating operations have started in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari regions and once flood levels recede, boating in Bhavani Island, Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam shall resume. Of the total 195 boats, 56 small 12-seater boats were given licences and 112 boats with higher capacity are yet to get the license. The minister said that new boats would be purchased either by the department or through public-private partnership and would be run in potential routes to boost the revenue. In addition to these, as a measure to avoid boat accidents, nine Command Control Rooms have been set-up, he added.

The minister further reviewed the possibilities for increasing revenue generation in the tourism sector, especially in the coming four months. He proposed introducing seaplane tourism connecting Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada-



- ▶ **Tourism Minister says all 195 boats will be allowed with fresh licences after thorough safety checks**
- ▶ **According to him, boating restarted in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari regions and after flood levels recede, boating in Bhavani Island, Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam will resume**
- ▶ **Moots seaplane tourism connecting Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada-Hussain Sagar like the one the PM inaugurated recently in Gujarat**

Hussain Sagar, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated one such project in Gujarat.

There are 38 restaurants run by the department and during Covid lockdown, all these restaurants supplied food to Covid care centres and earned a revenue of Rs 22.5 crore. A new ship restaurant in Visakhapatnam and setting up 5 and 7 star hotels were at proposal stage.

In regard to the sports, Srinivasa Rao said a new stadium in Prakasam district and a shopping complex which were built at a cost of Rs 2.2 crore and Rs 1 crore respectively, would be inaugurated on November 5. Also, the construction of six more stadiums in East

Godavari, Guntur and Prakasam districts were underway. He said that the state would receive Rs 3 crore funds through Centre's initiative Khelo India, for YSR Sports school in Kadapa. The minister said that the state accorded permission to run individual sports institutes of 10 sports like archery, badminton, tennis under unlock 5.0 from Thursday.

A statue of famous wrestler Kodi Rammurthy Naidu who brought many laurels to the state would be installed on the beach road in Visakhapatnam. He said that Chief Minister was giving importance to the sports and encouraging budding players from rural areas.

Jagan reviews Ambedkar project

- ▶ **Says the statue and structure should have a glow and spark**
- ▶ **Officials show the CM various models, including Ambedkar Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur), Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai**
- ▶ **Directs officials to display the life and times of Dr Ambedkar at Memorial Park apart from to setting up of library, museum and a gallery**

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviewed the progress on installing 125-ft statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at Swaraj Maidan and the Memorial Park Development Master Plan.

The Chief Minister told the officials that high standards should be maintained in the construction of Ambedkar statue and the structure should have glow and spark. The ambience of the landscape to be developed at the Memorial Park should be pleasant, he said.

He instructed the officials to display the life and times of Dr Ambedkar at Memorial Park in addition to setting up of library, museum and a gallery. The Chief Minister suggested displaying the quotes of Ambedkar in the



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy at a review on Dr B R Ambedkar Statue project progress in Tadepalli on Tuesday

park and also to widen the road and develop the walkway in an attractive manner.

The officials had shown two plans in a power point presentation of Ambedkar statue and memorial park.

The Officials had shown countrywide models, which include Ambedkar Deeksha Bhoomi (Nagpur), Chaitya Bhoomi (Mumbai), Ambedkar Memorial (Lakhanpur) and Prerana Sthal (Noida). The presentation focused on the design of gallery and auditorium. It is planned to complete the works within 14 months, the officials said.

Industries and IT minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, industries special chief secretary Karikal Valaven and other officials were present in the meeting.

‘Get land for airports’

AMARAVATI

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the authorities to focus on the land acquisition for expanding Gannavaram and Kadapa airports. In a review on airports and aviation projects across the state on Tuesday, he told the officials that the Airports Authority of India is showing interest in the water-drome project near Prakasam Barrage.

On Bhogapuram International Airport, the officials informed that 98 acre land is yet to be acquired for construction of airport, and similarly land acquisition has to be done for Orvakal airport in Kurnool district and Dagarathi in Nellore district.

Skill varsity to come up at Vizag

AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said an IT high-end skill university should be setup in Vishakapatnam and training in advanced subjects like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics should be given with job orientation.

In a review on IT policy at Tadepalli on Tuesday, the Chief Minister told the officials to tie up with Indian and foreign companies for training students and to develop their skills and prepare the required human resources to suit the requirements of IT companies.

At least 2,000 students should be trained at the university in Vishakapatnam and the certificates of training programmes should get international recognition. The Chief Minister said to start degree or diploma courses in tune with demand of IT Industry and directed the officials to start the works of IT high-end skill university in Vishakapatnam at the earliest.

Industries and IT minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, industries special chief secretary Karikal Valaven, industries commissioner Subramaniam and other senior officials were present.

Four of a family end life

- ▶ **The couple and two children were residents of Nandyal town**
- ▶ **Reason for the suicide is yet to be established**



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

FOUR members of a family committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train at Kavuluru village near Panyam railway station in the district on Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Abdul Salam, 42, his wife Nooru, 26, daughter Salma, 14 and son Dada Kalander, 7, all residents of Roja Kunta in Nandyal town.

According to the Panyam circle-inspector G Jeevan Ganganath Babu, Abdul Salam was an autorickshaw

driver and his wife Nooru worked as a teacher at a private school. Abdul Salam had four brothers but none of them was maintaining relations with one another. He was getting financial support from his in-laws, the CI said.

The motive behind the extreme step by the family is not known as no one from Abdul Salam's family turned up to take possession of the bodies. The railway police was informed of the incident. The scattered bodies were shifted to Nandyal government hospital.

HC directs State govt to provide whatever needed to poll panel

- ▶ **The bench says it is the responsibility of the elected govt to take care of constitutional bodies**
- ▶ **The court is hearing a petition filed by SEC Ramesh Kumar that the State govt is not cooperating with the SEC in discharging its constitutional duties**
- ▶ **Remarks that the govt is deliberately not cooperating with the SEC, who approached the judiciary and got back his post**

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELAPADU (AMARAVATI)

TAKING a serious note of the non-cooperation by the state government, division bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday advised the state administration that it was the responsibility of the elected governments to take care of the constitutional bodies.

It may be recalled that State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar filed a writ petition in the High Court stating that the state government was not cooperating with the SEC to discharge its constitutional duties.

The single judge bench of Justice B Devanand heard the arguments of the counsel of the petitioner Sitarama Murthy and Aswani Kumar.

The bench opined that it did not augur well for the government to cause inconvenience to the officials who are discharging their duty honestly. It appears that the government has been wantonly not cooperating with the SEC who approached the judiciary and



got back his post.

The judge stated that the State Election Commission was an autonomous institution and it works continuously. In the larger interest of the democracy, such autonomous institutions should be protected, it remarked.

Had the government provided necessary help and cooperation, the SEC would not have approached the judiciary, the division bench remarked and questioned the government as to why it did not respond to the umpteen requests of the SEC.

The bench directed the SEC to submit its requests to the state government in three days. It also directed the state government to provide whatever was requested by the SEC without fail. The High Court would take the decision on what to do if the state government did not implement the order.

COVID TALLY RISES TO 8.3 L IN STATE

AMARAVATI

STATE'S Covid-19 tally rose to 8.30 lakh even as the total recoveries crossed the eight lakh mark on Tuesday.

As 2,849 fresh cases were added in 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday, the gross confirmed positives in the state touched 8,30,731.

With 3,700 more patients getting cured of the infection, the overall recoveries increased to 8,02,325, according to the latest bulletin.

The state reported 15 fresh coronavirus fatalities, taking the tally to 6,734.

The overall infection positivity rate slid to just 10 per cent after a total of 82,66,800 sample tests were conducted, the bulletin added.

The significant factor has been that the growth rate of coronavirus cases has been just about 0.3 per cent in the last week while the percentage of active cases also fell to 2.7 per cent with the recovery rate touching 97 per cent.

The state now has 21,672 active Covid-19 cases, with Nellore district having the lowest 191, Kurnool 277, Vizianagaram 295 and Srikakulam 631.

On Tuesday, Prakasam district crossed the 60,000 mark in overall

- ▶ **2,849 new cases and 15 deaths reported in 24 hours**
- ▶ **The overall recoveries increase to 8,02,325 with 3,700 more patients getting cured**

positive cases and Krishna went past 40,000.

But Krishna has been presenting a worrying trend over the past couple of weeks with around 400 new cases being reported on a daily basis after showing a declining trend earlier.

From the bottom of the state Covid-19 table, Krishna has now climbed one step, leaving Vizianagaram district at number 13.

In 24 hours, Chittoor added 436, Krishna 421, East Godavari 394 and West Godavari 386 new cases. Guntur reported 277 while four districts added between 100 and 200 cases each.

Kurnool continued to report the lowest number of fresh positives, 35 on Tuesday, even as three more districts saw the addition of less than 100 cases each to their tally. Anantapur and Guntur district reported three more Covid-19 deaths each while Chittoor and Krishna had two fatalities each.

Five districts reported one fresh death each. **PTI**

India to spend \$500 bn on infra by 2030

Continued from P1

He added that India is no different and, unfortunately, not all infrastructure projects are properly planned and delivered, resulting in delays, cost overruns and under-delivery against expected benefits.

"The negative impact of this is significant, with our calculations showing that, in India, this could result in an additional cost of Rs 10,820 billion by 2030. Globally, the cost could be as much as \$900 billion," Millett said.

This financial burden, combined with a perceived lack of delivery capability due to project delays and mismanagement, risks severely damaging public confidence

in the sector, he said.

"With COVID-19 placing greater emphasis on the importance of infrastructure as an economic multiplier, it is more important than ever that we get this right. Our major projects and programmes must have clarity of direction and outcome-focused decision making to ensure they do not become a burden, but rather an enabler for post-pandemic growth," said Millett.

Commenting on the report, Anuj Puri, Chairman for Anarock Group said: "Construction halt, labour shortage and revocation of toll collection were some of the major challenges India's infrastructure

Mercury dips to 10°C in Delhi

Continued from P1

The maximum temperature was 30.1 degrees Celsius.

According to IMD officials, temperatures usually dips to 11-12 degrees Celsius by the last week of November. "It will be hazy today, with mist or shallow fog on Wednesday morning and clear sky throughout the day," the forecast said.

November has started on a colder-note. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 10.8 degrees Celsius on Monday morning. On Sunday, the capital city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.4 degrees Celsius. The month of October was also

the city's coldest in the past 58 years.

"The dip in mercury is due to lack of cloud cover over the region. Clouds trap the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, thereby warming the ground," said Head of IMD's regional forecasting centre, Kuldeep Srivastava.

Besides, in the last three days, there has been light snowfall and rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, Srivastava said, adding that north-westerly winds from those higher regions are blowing into Delhi further impacting the slide in temperature.

Delhi air quality ‘very poor’

Continued from P1

We need to collectively work towards reducing pollution," a morning walker said.

"In August, the air quality index was fairly good. In two months, the situation has gone from bad to severe. It's difficult for ageing people and younger kids to be specific," another morning walker said. An AQI between 0-50 is marked good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 is moderate, 201-300 is poor, 301-400 is very poor and 401-500 is considered severe.

To tackle the rising air pollution, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had launched the "Green Delhi" app last week, which would enable people to register complaints about violation of anti-pollution norms.

Central Bank observes Vigilance Awareness Week



Vijay Mjurar, General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai, T S Zeera, Senior Regional Manager, Vijayawada and Durga Prasad Mahanty, Regional Manager, Guntur and staff members are seen in a meeting as part of Vigilance Awareness Week

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

THE Central Bank of India, Guntur Region, having 52 branches spread over seven districts namely Guntur, Nellore, Prakasam, Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur & Chittoor observed vigilance awareness week from October 27 to November 2.

In the week-long programme, it has spread awareness among customers on 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India.'

Durga Prasad Mohanty, Regional Manager, in his message has requested all the staff working in the branch and Regional office to carry out the spirit in building a vigilant and prosperous India.

3 die, 19 hurt as private bus overturns

TIRUPATI

THREE persons died and 19 others including school going children were injured when a private bus overturned at Valasapalli on Madanapalli-Punganur road on Tuesday. According to information reaching here, the mishap occurred when the speeding bus lost control after hitting a boulder on the roadside and overturned resulting in the death of three on the spot and injuries to passengers.

5 killed in Vienna shooting

Continued from P1

Later, he tweeted that the attack was "not between Christians and Muslims" or "between Austrians and migrants", but between "many people who believe in peace and the few who want war".

Six locations were attacked at 8 pm local time on Monday (12.30 am on Tuesday IST), starting outside the main synagogue in the city.

Witnesses had described crowds being fired at in bars with automatic rifles, as many people took advantage of a last evening out before the start of a nationwide coronavirus curfew.

The police said the two arrests were made in the nearby town of St Poelten and that heavily armed police had searched two properties. Nehammer said video material had been seized from the home of the known assailant, and the police were investigating his potential connections.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Need to think of data as infrastructure



Data should be thought of as infrastructure that must be invested upon like highways and airports. It is not just ease of doing business, but also ease of living that has to be enhanced using data.

— Chief Economic Advisor **K V Subramanian**



RESULTS

Sun Pharma Q2 net up 70 pc to ₹1,813 cr

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries reported a 70.36 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,812.79 crore for the quarter ended on September 30, 2020, mainly on the back of robust sales. The company posted a net profit of Rs 1,064.09 crore in same period a year ago

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| US Dollar | 78.86 |
| Euro | 91.36 |
| UAE Dirham | 22.28 |
| Thai Baht | 2.75 |
| British Pound | 100.49 |
| Australian Dollar | 55.61 |
| Canadian Dollar | 59.41 |
| Swiss Franc | 84.46 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| South African Rand | 5.34 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 11.04 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.82 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 52.12 |
| Saudi Riyal | 21.81 |
| Swedish Krona | 9.64 |
| Singapore Dollar | 57.38 |

DELHI WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Geojit rolls out platform

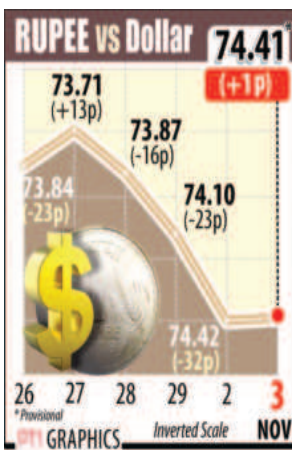
INVESTMENT services company Geojit Financial Services Ltd launched its global investment platform to help its customers invest in the US markets and diverse global assets through a single account from anywhere in the world. Geojit has partnered with New York-based global wealth management services platform Stockol, to develop the AI-powered global investment platform which helps investors diversify their portfolio by investing in international equities. The comprehensive tech-enabled digital experience will benefit more than 10 lakh Geojit customers as well as Indian retail investors, high-net-worth investors, ex-NRIs and expat IT professionals who want to invest in the global assets. Satish Menon, Executive Director of Geojit Financial Services, said, "There has been a substantial increase in demand from HN-Is, retail investors and those who track global equity investment markets for investing in global equities"

Festive sale from Excitel

EXCITEL, an internet service provider, has announced a sale on broadband this festive season. Excitel Broadband's new plans offer high-speed internet across speeds of 100 Mbps, 200 Mbps and 300 Mbps, to users across 12 cities in the country. Excitel's fiber (FTTH) connection provides the same speed throughout the month, seamless downloads and uploads, no data limit and hassle-free installation. "With an explosion of smart devices, rising internet penetration and advent of bandwidth intensive graphical/video content and apps, ISPs and telcos will have to offer abundant usage at affordable prices to consumers in order to propel the growth of broadband. All our plans are truly unlimited without any FUP or restriction of any kind on data usage, a feature which no other ISP is providing", said Vivek Raina, Excitel co-founder and CEO.

Dalmia Cement's new initiative

DALMIA Cement has associated with Paytm, to offer cashless payment solutions to its dealers and retailers across the country. Through this association, Dalmia Cement dealers will get access to Paytm's wide range of payment solutions, helping them to easily accept digital payments from consumers through UPI, Paytm wallet and other popular non-cash payment methods. Over time, the partnership aims to reach out to over 30,000 Dalmia Cement dealers and retailers across 22 states and union territories. Pramesh Arya, Executive Director and Head of Marketing, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd. said, "As a company, Dalmia Cement's emphasis on being digital first has helped our dealers and retailers carry out their day to day business transactions easily. Paytm has always stood for ease of use and convenience in the world of digital payments".



FM to unveil another stimulus soon: EAS

Economic Affairs Secretary says Finance Ministry is looking into suggestions, requests

NEW DELHI

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will soon announce the next set of stimulus package to boost the coronavirus-hit economy, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Tuesday.

The Finance Ministry is looking into suggestions and requests received from various sectors of the economy, he said in a virtual conference with media.

"We are actually discussing that. It is difficult for me to commit a date but we have received a lot of requests and comments from various sectors and we are looking into it. Very soon it will be unveiled. The finance minister will come out and speak to you on that," he said.

The finance minister last month had announced a slew of measures to spur demand and ramp-up capital expenditure. This was the third stimulus package since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The government had announced a Rs 1.70 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) in March to protect the poor and vulnerable sections from the impact of Covid-19 crisis.

It was followed by the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan



Tarun Bajaj

package of Rs 20.97 lakh crore in May, largely focussed on supply-side measures and long-term reforms.

On the elevated food prices, Bajaj said it is a temporary phenomenon and the government has taken some measures to cool down prices. He further said this has something to do with logistics and with new crop coming in there could be some moderation.

On the recovery, Bajaj said India continues to see an uptick in the economy for the past few months since the unlock began and there would be further improvement in the months to come. Despite Covid-19 situation, India growth story is intact, he added.

Exports dip 5.4% as engg shipments fall

Exports of petroleum products, gems, jewellery, leather also decline; trade deficit narrows

NEW DELHI

AFTER recording positive growth in September, India's exports declined 5.4 per cent to \$24.82 billion in October on account of dip in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather, and engineering goods.

Trade deficit in October narrowed to \$8.78 billion as against \$11.76 billion, as imports also fell 11.56 per cent to \$33.6 billion during the month under review.

"India's merchandise exports in October 2020 were \$24.82 billion, as compared to \$26.23 billion in October 2019, showing a fall of 5.4 per cent," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement. Major export commodities which recorded negative growth during October included petroleum products (53.30 per cent), cashew (21.57 per cent), gems and jewellery (21.27 per cent), leather (16.69 per cent), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups (12.82 per cent), electronic goods (9.40 per cent), coffee (9.25 per cent), marine products (8.09 per cent) and engineering goods (3.84 per cent).

Sectors which showed positive growth included rice, oil meals, iron ore, oil seeds, carpet, pharmaceuticals, spices, cotton and chemicals.



maceuticals, spices, cotton and chemicals.

During April-October 2020, exports declined 19.05 per cent to \$150.07 billion, while imports fell 36.28 per cent over the same period last year to \$182.29 billion. Oil imports dipped 38.52 per cent to \$5.98 billion in October.

During April-October, it declined 49.5 per cent to \$37.84 billion. After contracting for six straight months, India's exports rose 5.99 per cent to \$27.58 billion in September.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Sharad Kumar Saraf said the nominal decline in exports during the month was mainly because of huge container

shortage and hike in sea freight, which upset exports, particularly for those who have negotiated on CIF (Cost, Insurance, Freight) or C&F (Cost and Freight) basis. Besides, farmers' agitation in some of the hinterland states also affected exports during October, he said.

"As the election process gets over in the US, with the upcoming Christmas and New Year season, both global and Indian economy are slated for economic revival. Exporters have continuously been receiving a lot of enquiries and orders, further adding to the positive sentiments with signals of further resilience in the global supply chain," he added.

Modi to chair virtual global investor meet today

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra

Modi will on Thursday chair a virtual global investor roundtable that will provide an opportunity to leading global investors and Indian business leaders to engage and deliberate with senior policy makers on how to further accelerate the growth of international investments in the country.

The Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) is being organised by the Ministry of Finance and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. It is an exclusive dialogue between leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and the highest decision makers from the government of India and financial market regulators, the statement said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and other dignitaries will also be present on the occasion.

The roundtable will witness participation from 20 of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with a total assets under management of about \$6 trillion, the PMO said.



Micromax launches two new devices

NEW DELHI

HOMEGROWN phone company Micromax on Tuesday said it expects 10 percent of the sales volume of its newly launched 'In' smartphones to come from its own online platform by the end of this fiscal. Micromax which launched two devices under its 'In' brand on Tuesday said it will bring in products across various price points as it looks to make a comeback in the hypercompetitive Indian smartphone market.

"We have started our e-commerce platform (micromax-info.com) with the launch of 'In' today and will be looking at building the platform.

"The intent is to drive at least 10 per cent of the overall volumes from this platform by the end this financial year," Micromax co-founder Rahul Sharma told PTI. He added that the company will add new devices to its portfolio across various price points to cater to different segments of consumers.

Stock markets gain on banking, finance boost

MUMBAI

THE Sensex rallied 504 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 11,800-level on Tuesday, propped up by banking and finance counters, as global markets marched higher on US election day.

Encouraging Q2 results and foreign capital inflows added to the buying momentum in the domestic markets, traders said.

Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 503.55 points or 1.27 per cent higher at 40,261.13. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 144.35 points or 1.24 per cent to 11,813.50. ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 6.51 per cent, followed by SBI, HDFC, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Titan, Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank. On the other hand, NTPC, Reliance

Sensex rallies 504 points while Nifty reclaims 11,800-level



Industries, Nestle India, HCL Tech, Infosys and HUL were among the laggards, shedding up to 3.75 per cent. Global bourses followed Wall Street higher as investors wagered on fresh US stimulus immediately after the elections. Bourses in Shanghai, Hong

Kong, Seoul, and Tokyo ended with significant gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals.

"Indian equities witnessed a sharp rally today mainly led by strong global cues, which was caused by expectations of large fiscal stimulus with national polls in the US predicting Democratic sweep in the presidential election.

"Going forward, market is expected to be volatile due to likely ambiguity over election outcome in the US and continued rise in Covid-19 cases in various European nations including US," said Arjun Yash Mahajan, Head Institutional Business at Reliance Securities. Sector-wise, BSE bankex, finance, metal, auto, consumer durables and healthcare indices rallied as much as 3.21 per cent, while realty, energy, telecom, tech and oil and gas closed in the red.

Diamond Drops unveils sanitising, cleaning agent

HANS NEW SERVICES BENGALURU

DIAMOND Drops, a new age startup has launched a cleaning and sanitizing agent that is produced with tap water and is eco-friendly and residue free. It has been claimed that natural oxidizer which kills 99.9 per cent of most common harmful microbes in just 30 seconds runs on a game changing technology called Conductive Diamond Electrolysis, that uses normal tap water to produce Activated Ozone Water which is a natural germ killer. The products also act as multi-purpose solutions and can be utilized as cleaner, sanitizer and deodorizer. Activated Ozone Water (AOW)



is a product of water and electrical charge. The process creates one of the most powerful oxidizers on the planet, revolutionizing the way people clean, sanitize and deodorizing the spaces.

Using Activated Ozone Water (AOW) not only eliminates the need to use harsh chemicals, it also eliminates the need to purchase multiple cleaning products.

Announcing the launch of this path breaking offering, Harish HP, founder & CEO of Diamond Drops, said, "Through our technology, the sanitizing solution produced will have zero harsh chemicals, making it safer for people to use. As the solution is non-synthetic and biodegradable, this makes the product more sustainable and environment friendly".

Over 60% Indian firms to leverage Cloud as a platform

As a result of Covid-19 Indian organisations plan to increase spending on SaaS services

NEW DELHI

MORE than 60 percent of the Indian organisations plan to leverage cloud platforms for digital innovation, as the firms re-strategise their IT spending plans as a result of Covid-19, according to a new IDC survey.

Accelerating investment in an agile cloud infrastructure is seen as a part of the solution to the challenges arising from the spread of the pandemic Covid-19. "Strategic investments in technology will become imperative to minimize the adverse impact and make businesses more resilient. The role of providers will become crucial in helping organisations flatten the curve and leverage cloud in their next normal," said Rishu Sharma, Principal Analyst for cloud & artificial intelligence at IDC India.

India public cloud services (PCS) market is projected to touch \$7.1 billion by 2024 growing at a CAGR of 20.3 percent between 2019-2024. Although

Strategic investments in technology will become imperative to minimize the adverse impact and make businesses more resilient. The role of providers will become crucial in helping organisations flatten the curve and leverage cloud in their next normal

— Rishu Sharma, Principal Analyst, IDC India



most organisations in India have adopted cloud at some stage, the current pandemic situation has now enabled them to spend more on public cloud infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS), platform-as-a-service (PaaS) solutions, and software-as-a-service (SaaS). From a segment perspective, SaaS forms the largest component of the overall public cloud services market in India, followed by IaaS and PaaS. With the changing strategy, over 56 percent of the Indian organisations plan to increase their spend

on SaaS services, as a result of Covid-19. In 2019, the top two providers in the SaaS segment accounted for nearly 52 percent of the total SaaS market. In the IaaS segment, the top two providers accounted for over 78 percent in 2019. "Organisations are planning to leverage cloud for digital innovation and accessing innovative ecosystems, in addition to gaining flexibility and meeting up additional demands," said Swapnil Shende, Senior Market Analyst for artificial intelligence at IDC India.

PNB plans to raise ₹7,000 cr via QIP

The bank has aimed about ₹16,000 cr for the fiscal keeping and ₹3,200 cr of cash recovery

NEW DELHI

PUNJAB National Bank (PNB) on Tuesday said it is planning to raise Rs 7,000 crore through share sale next month to shore up its capital base for meeting business plan. The country's second largest state-owned lender expects the credit growth to pick up

slightly in the second half but it would be less than 5 per cent for the entire fiscal. The bank has already taken approval from the board for raising Rs 14,000 crore by way of Tier II, Additional Tier I (AT-I) bonds and QIP (Qualified Institutional Placement), PNB Managing Director S Mallikarjuna Rao said in a virtual interaction with the media.



"Of this, Rs 4,000 crore is for Tier II. Against this, we have raised Rs 2,500 crore and remaining Rs 1,500 crore and additional Rs 3,000 crore from AT-I bonds will be raised before November 30. With respect to QIP of Rs 7,000 crore, we are planning to go to the market in the second or third week of December. It would depend on the book running lead manager (BRLM) and roadshows," he said.

With this fund mobilisation, capital-to-risk-weighted assets ratio, which was at 12.8 per cent at the end of September 2020 quarter, would go up to 13.5-14 percent. "With respect to unlocking value in subsidiaries, as on today we don't have any plan. We will be looking that proposal in future if anything is required. We are adequately capitalised," he said.

PSBs not to raise service charges

NEW DELHI

IN view of the Covid pandemic, public sector banks (PSBs) have decided not to raise bank service charges in the near future, a Finance Ministry statement said on Tuesday. The decision is expected to be welcomed by general consumers of banking services who are already burdened due to slowing of economic activities on account of the pandemic. The Finance Ministry said that although, as per RBI guidelines, all banks, including PSBs, are permitted to levy charges for their services in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, based upon costs involved, PSBs intimated that they do not propose to raise bank charges in the near future. Accordingly, the Bank of Baroda, which had reduced the number of free cash deposits and withdrawals from five each month to three each per month from November 1, has also withdrawn the changes.

TS aims to become leading life sciences cluster in Asia by 2030

Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao releases the 'Telangana Life Sciences: Vision 2030' report prepared by the Life Sciences Advisory Committee, constituted by the State government

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MUNICIPAL Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Tuesday said that the aim of the government was to make Telangana one of the top Life Sciences clusters in Asia and a leading cluster in the world by 2030.

The Minister on Tuesday released the 'Telangana Life sciences: Vision 2030' report prepared by the Life Sciences Advisory Committee, constituted by the government. Stating that the State would become a leading cluster in life sciences by 2030, Rama Rao



said that the report prepared by the committee would give the government the strategic direction in achieving the vision.

Life Sciences Advisory Committee chairman Satish Reddy said that the committee

would work closely with the State government to achieve the vision of becoming one of the top life sciences clusters in Asia by 2030. The State of Telangana has the advantage of skilled manpower, strong technical capabilities and a high-quality infrastructure with a proactive government which would give it the thrust in realising the vision.

'Telangana Life Sciences: Vision 2030' released on Tuesday was prepared after detailed discussions with the stakeholders from the industry, investors, academia, advisors, the State government and the other non-govern-

mental entities.

The Committee serves as a structured interface for the government with the leaders of industry and academia to brainstorm on ideas, identify opportunities for the State and add further impetus to Telangana's growth trajectory in the sector. The committee is expected to play a vital role in shaping government's policies and efforts to further the leadership position of Telangana in the life sciences sector.

Officials including Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Life Sciences Director Shakthi Nagappan were present.

Medicos passed out from other States caught in vortex of woes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Medicos, who completed post-graduation in government and private medical colleges in the State in 2020, were absorbed under one-year Compulsory Senior Residency programme by the Telangana government in view of the corona pandemic and to overcome the shortage of doctors in the State-run hospitals. More than 1,000 PG medicos were sent letters by the government to work as Senior Residents in teaching hospitals, district and area hospitals, and a majority of them have joined and are doing duties in Gandhi, TIMS, King Koti, Chest Hospital etc. However, medicos hailing from Telangana and who have completed PG in national institutions and other States in 2020, are interested to join as SRs like their batchmates from here and even contacted the department in this connection. However, accord-

- They approach the health department for Senior Residency duties like their batchmates from the State posted in State-run hospitals
- Some of them approach TSMC for registration of degrees
- However, both their requests not yet fulfilled



ing to medicos, there was no assurance to utilise their services for Senior Residency. The other thing they were complaining was about non-registration of their degrees by the Telangana State Medical Council. According to Dr P S Vijayender, convenor of Telangana Doctors Federation, these PG completed medicos are meritorious lot having

completed their study from top institutions in various States in the national pool under NEET PG quota. There is a shortage of doctors still and it would be better if the health department also gives them Senior Residency duties. Else, the State Medical Council should take steps to register their degrees without any delay, he said.

Pensioners exempted from physical examination

HYDERABAD

DUE to lack of information on the submission of annual verification certificates by the pensioners, a large number of old-aged persons turned up at the Pension Payment Office at Manoranjan Complex at Nampally only to learn that there was no physical verification this time.

The government had notified that the pensioners should submit their annual verification certificate from November 1 to March 31. Many had turned up at the pension office on Tuesday only to see the billboard that physical verification would not be conducted this time because of covid pandemic. Nageshwar Rao, a senior citizen retired from the education department, had come all the way from Gachibowli. He said that he had no information about the online verification. "We used to come here every year. But this year, the officials are saying they will not accept. They are advising us to go to the MeeSeva for

quick submission," said Nageshwar Rao. Not only Nageshwar Rao, but many other pensioners were seen climbing the second floor in the office only to be informed that there was no physical verification. They were seen approaching people at a stationery centre on the premises who were collecting money from the pensioners.

Meanwhile, the joint director of Pension Payment Office R Venkanna issued a notice stating that the State government service pensioners and other government pensioners who were receiving pensions through pension payment unit in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad were requested to submit the certificates through digital mode including T-App folio, MeeSeva, Jeevan Praman mode due to covid pandemic. They have been asked to refrain from approaching the APPO branches for submitting life certificates for this year keeping in view of pandemic prevalence, read the notice.

HSPA gripes about fee collection by pvt schools

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad Schools Parents Association (HSPA) gave a representation to Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy complaining against the private schools in Telangana accusing them of defying the Government Order 46.

An HSPA delegation led by its working president Seema Agarwal said that the State government had given hope for lakhs of parents by issuing GO 46 to provide the much-needed relief during the times of pandemic. However, none of the private schools has implemented the same in true spirit. Instead, the schools have manipulatively worked around the previous years' fee structures for their own advantage and continue to exploit parents by forcing and charging unjustified fee during the corona times for the last six months, they

- Members of the Association call on Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy
- Complaints that the private schools are violating the Government Order 46 and extracting fee from parents during the testing times



said.

The delegation highlighted how pandemic fee relief has been announced in various other States like Assam, Odisha and West Bengal. Very recently, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had announced a 30 per cent reduction in private school fee, they added.

Contrarily, the private schools in Telangana have been defying even the State government GOs and direction of the Telangana

Chief Minister. This raises several doubts in the minds of parents in the State whether the private schools have become more powerful than the State government?

They asked when the schools themselves do not follow, then what morals and ethics the schools would teach our children, the future citizens of the State and the country?" they asked.

The HSPA urged the Minister to direct the education depart-

ment officials to take strict action against the schools violating GO 46. Also, to direct the education department to issue clear guidelines regarding the definition of tuition fee for online classes. Besides, the department officials to take time-bound action on the complaints registered by the parents.

Further, they insisted that the private schools should not take any new admissions and start the process for the academic year 2021-22 until the State Education department makes announcements.

The HSPA requested the education department to take stringent action against the erring private schools showing scant respect to orders and directions of the State government and Telangana Education Department, including derecognition of some schools or withdrawal of their NOCs for not adhering to the rules and regulations.

27,589 inter students absent for exams promoted

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE State government on Tuesday has extended grace pass marks for 27,589 students who were absent to the Intermediate Public Examinations of March-2020. A Government Order issued on Tuesday said that the benefit has also been extended to 338 students who have been exonerated by the Malpractice Scrutiny Committee as a onetime measure. The decision has been taken considering the extraordinary situation prevailing due to covid pandemic.

Bhandari Latha takes part in MLC voter enrolment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TARNAKA

FORMER Corporator of Tarnaka Division Bhandari Latha took part in MLC voters enrolment in Tarnaka on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Latha said that every graduate should enroll themselves as voters and exercise their votes wisely to choose their leader who would work for their development and welfare.



Malkajigiri MLA tests Covid positive

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MALKAJIGIRI MLA Mynampalli Hanumantha Rao tested Covid positive on Tuesday. However, he is having no major symptoms and was advised home isolation. MLA posted a message on social media that he was going into isolation for two weeks and appealed to all who came in contact with him in last five days to get Covid test done.

Bank of Baroda observes Vigilance Awareness Week

HYDERABAD

BANK of Baroda Zonal Office, Hyderabad organised Valedictory function on Vigilance Awareness week 2020. During the observance of vigilance awareness week from October 27 to November 02, Bank administered integrity pledge to all the staff members in the zone covering State of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. All regional officers & branches conducted

quiz and essay competition on digital platform relevant to the current year's theme 'Satark Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)' PC Kalyan IPS, SP CBI ACB Hyderabad was the chief guest in the programme. Manmohan Gupta, General Manager & Zonal Head J Ramagopal, Dy Zonal Head, Zonal office besides executives and staff members participated in the programme.



VHP stung over police denial of nod for procession to Yadadri

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

VISHWA Hindu Parishad (VHP) spokesperson Ravinuthala Shashidhar expressed shock over the Rachakonda police denying permission for taking out a religious procession. In a statement released on Tuesday, he asked the Rachakonda police whether denying permissions and trampling upon the fundamental rights of Hindus and their programmes was secularism? The VHM leader took strong exception to the police citing existing of a mosque on the proposed route of the procession for denying the permission.

He said that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams member and Yuga Tulasi Foundation chairman K Shiva Kumar has sought permission to take out a procession to Yadadri temple to highlight a demand to declare cow as the national animal. However, the reasons cited by the police were laughable as the police claim that the procession of Gaubhaktas would lead to law and order problem.

He demanded the Rachakonda Police Commissioner to take back the memo

immediately and urged the State DGP M Mahender Reddy to intervene to protect the fundamental rights of Hindus. Earlier, as Rachakonda Police Commissionerate said the proposed yatra was to be taken out from Shree Trishakthi Hanuman Devasthanam, Mint Compound, Hyderabad to Shree Lakshminarasimha Swamy Devasthanam, Yadagirigutta from November 5 to 7.

The memo said that the procession route would pass through Uppal Bada Masjid which was a sensitive place for recent developments. Moreover, the police said that construction of flyover works were going on from Nalla Cheruvu to Medipally CPRI gate for which roads were damaged heavily due to pillar works and also due to recent heavy rains. That apart, the route proposed was the busiest national highway and was very dangerous to move on the national highways on foot during night, for it might lead to road accidents and loss of lives. Further, if permitted there was a scope of law and order problems. Hence, the permission sought has been rejected, police said.

Harish sure of Dubbaka win, thanks people for big turnout

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SIDDIPET

FINANCE Minister T Harish Rao on Tuesday expressed confidence that TRS would win Dubbaka byelections with a huge majority and the high polling percentage is testimony of good administration of the TRS government.

Giving his reactions on high turnout at the polling stations, Harish Rao said the BJP and Congress parties talked

lies during the campaign. He thanked the people of Dubbaka for coming out to vote in large numbers even in Covid-19 pandemic. He also complemented the election staff for smooth conduct of polling even though there was enormous stress.

Harish Rao said that the BJP was involved in Goebble's campaign right from the beginning to the end of polling. They tried to buy votes with conspiracies, riots and by distributing

money. They adopted another campaign till the last minute of the election on the social media that the Congress candidate Cheruku Srinivas Reddy would be joining TRS.

The TRS leader ridiculed the allegations that the TRS party leaders would indulge in bogus voting from 4 pm to 6 pm by disconnecting electricity. He said that irrespective of the conspiracies, the TRS would win the Dubbaka constituency with a huge majority.



DUBBAKA POLL

Congress complains against false news report about its candidate

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the DGP M Mahender Reddy against the misleading news reports stating that its party candidate from Dubbaka Assembly constituency Cheruku Srinivas Reddy was joining other political party. A delegation of the party leaders led by TPCC president N.Uttam Kumar Reddy met the DGP and submitted their representation and urged him to take action against those who are responsible for the dissemination of the false news.

Speaking to media persons, TPCC president Uttam Kumar



TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy along with Congress leaders submitting a representation to the DGP Mahender Reddy in Hyderabad on Tuesday

Reddy alleged that the rival party leaders TRS and BJP circulated the false news report on social media by citing a famous news

channel. He said that TV news channel had also denied the news reports. He alleged that Finance Minister T. Harish Rao and BJP

candidate Raghunandan Rao hatched the conspiracy and circulated the video containing the false news as they were scared of losing the elections in Dubbaka. He said that the Election Commission had disqualified a candidate after his victory for circulating similar false news. He said they had also attached a copy of the Kerala High Court order on the issue. Bhongir MP K Venkat Reddy alleged that rival TRS and the BJP had come up with the fresh conspiracy after getting indications of the victory of the Congress candidate. Citing that some TV news channels have also forgotten their duty of telecasting genuine news, he warned the people of the State to be wary of such news channels.

Cong appoints Shabbir Ali election coordinator for Bihar polls

HYDERABAD

SENIOR Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir has been appointed as the election coordinator for Seemanchal region for the Bihar Assembly elections.

The appointment was made by All India Congress Committee

(A I C C) election war room in charge Dr. Ajay Kumar on Tuesday.

Dr. Ajay Kumar said that the Bihar Assembly election was full of challenges and Congress and its allies are confident of winning polls. He said that the Congress wants to utilise the experience, cooperation and support of Shabbir Ali in this need of the hour. Therefore, he has been asked to take charge of election coordinator of Seemanchal region with immediate effect. Reacting on this development, Shabbir Ali said that he was honoured on being appointed as the election coordinator and he would immediately proceed to Seemanchal to participate in the Congress campaign as per the directions of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and ex-president Rahul Gandhi.



Watson bids adieu to all forms of cricket

‘FEEL CRAZILY LUCKY TO HAVE LIVED OUT MY DREAM’

NEW DELHI

FORMER Australian all-rounder Shane Watson on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

"As one amazing chapter closes, another very exciting one opens. I am forever grateful for everyone who was so good to me and helped me realise that dreams do come through. Now onto the next exciting chapter..." he wrote along with a video titled 'My retire announcement' on t20stars.com.

Watson, after making his international debut in 2002, went on to represent Australia in 59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58 T20Is and scored over 14,000 runs. Apart from that, he

also scalped 291 international wickets. He bid adieu to international cricket in 2016. "It all started out as a dream. As a young kid, watching a Test match when I was five years old, I told my mum that I want to play cricket for Australia. And now as I officially announce my retirement from all forms of cricket, I feel crazily lucky to have lived out my dream," Watson said in the video.

Besides, Watson played 145 matches in the Indian Premier League, representing three franchises - Rajasthan Royals (78 games), Royal Challengers Bangalore (24) and Chennai Super Kings (43). He was part of two title-winning teams -- RR in 2008 and for CSK in 2018. He also won two Man of the Tournament Awards in 2008 and 2013.

He tallied 3,874 runs, scored at a strike-rate of 137.91, and slammed four centuries and 21 half-centuries, besides capturing 92 wickets, including a hat-trick. He also captained RR and RCB. While Watson has had a successful IPL career, this season he wasn't in top form as he managed just 299 runs from 11 innings, including a highest of 83 not out against Kings XI Punjab. He did not bowl at all.

Watson played a key role in CSK winning the IPL title in 2018 and came tantalisingly to doing an encore in 2019, when his team lost to Mumbai Indians by a solitary run in the final. The Aussie had retired from international cricket in 2016. "It really does feel like a right time, knowing that I played my last game of cricket ever for my beloved CSK, who have been so incredibly good to me over the last three years," said Watson.

"To think that I am finishing my playing career as a 39-year-old, I feel so ridiculously fortunate. Now as one chapter closes, another very exciting one opens and I am forever grateful for everyone's love and support through this phase of my life and now on to the next very exciting chapter that awaits" he added. (HANS)

3874 runs in 145 IPL

Lakshya, Dey and Jayaram return to India after SaarLorLux fiasco

NEW DELHI

INDIAN badminton players Lakshya Sen, Shubhankar Dey and Ajay Jayaram along with Lakshya's coach DK Sen and physio Abhishek Wagh have returned to India from Germany, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) said on Tuesday.

The trio's campaign at the SaarLorLux Open was derailed by Sen testing positive for Covid-19. The organisers then asked Lakshya, Dey and Jayaram to withdraw from the tournament. The BAI said in its statement that the trio were quarantined in Germany for five days and were allowed to travel back to India after a second test result came out negative. The players and staff are now home quarantined for seven days.



59 TESTS

190 ODIs

58 T20Is

Mindset was tentative, but glad to qualify: RCB captain Kohli

ABU DHABI

ROYAL Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain Virat Kohli on Monday admitted that going into the decisive Indian Premier League (IPL) game against Delhi Capitals (DC) the 'mindset was a little bit tentative'.

However, Kohli said in the end he was happy that his team qualified for the playoffs and got an opportunity to make it to the final slated for November 10. DC beat RCB by six wickets to qualify for the playoffs as well.

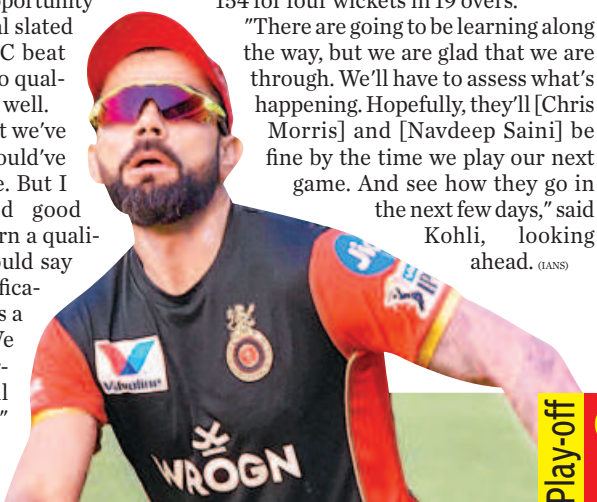
"We are happy that we've qualified. Top two would've been really very nice. But I think we've played good enough cricket to earn a qualification spot. You could say just before the qualification, the mindset was a little bit tentative. We have a shot, an opportunity and that's all we want as a team," Kohli said after the game.

"I'm sure the

guys will be excited about what's ahead for us. We can be more brave with the bat in pockets. With the ball, we were decent, probably we could have a strong powerplay, which is our strength. If we implement those things, we'll be at the right end of the result. It's important to stay positive," he said.

RCB, asked to bat, scored 152 for seven wickets in 20 overs, and DC made 154 for four wickets in 19 overs.

"There are going to be learning along the way, but we are glad that we are through. We'll have to assess what's happening. Hopefully, they'll [Chris Morris] and [Navdeep Saini] be fine by the time we play our next game. And see how they go in the next few days," said Kohli, looking ahead. (HANS)



Play-off Qualifier 1 On Thursday MI vs DC at 7.30pm

‘Make helmet must for batsmen’

NEW DELHI

SACHIN Tendulkar on Tuesday called on the authorities to make the use of helmet mandatory for batsmen at professional level.

The Indian batting maestro, who rarely batted without helmet during his playing days, tweeted a video of an incident from an October 24 Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Kings XI Punjab and SunRisers Hyderabad.

During the game, Vijay Shankar was hit on the face by a throw from KXIP fielder Nicholas Pooran while the SRH

batsman was reaching the crease to complete a run.

"The game has become faster but is it getting safer? Recently we witnessed an incident which could've been nasty. Be it a spinner or pacer, wearing a HELMET should be MANDATORY for batsmen at professional levels," said Tendulkar along with the video.

He then tagged Team India head coach Ravi Shastri in another tweet and said, "This also reminded me of the time when you got hit after top-edges a full toss bowled by Mr Gavaskar during an exhibition game. That could've been a grave injury too but thankfully wasn't!"

In recent times, there have been demands to use helmets with extra protection like neck guard after Australian batsman Phil Hughes died in a Sheffield Shield game in November, 2014. The batsman was hit below the helmet on the left upper side of his neck by a delivery from Sean Abbott.

Companies have also begun to redesign helmets.



Finds of IPL

Youngsters who turned from nobody to somebody

NEW DELHI

LIKE the previous 12 IPL seasons, the present edition too has unearthed a plethora of young Indian cricketers -- Devdutt Padikkal, Rahul Tewatia, Ravi Bishnoi, T. Natarajan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Varun Chakravarthy, Arshdeep Singh -- who have caught the eye and promised to make it big sooner or later.

Some other youngsters like Kartik Tyagi, Tushar Deshpande, Riyan Parag, Priyam Garg, and Abdul Samad, too impressed in the limited opportunities they got. These players also hold promise and going forward they would carry the rich experience of playing against and with stalwarts in the Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates. A look at some of the finds of IPL 2020:

Devdutt Padikkal: The 20-year-old Royals Challengers Bangalore (RCB) player has so far scored 472 runs, including five half-centuries, in 14 innings. These runs have come at an impressive strike rate of over 125, including 51 fours and 8 sixes. "He (Padikkal) has really handled the pressure in IPL well. It is watched worldwide, its fan base and product is huge and he's caught everyone's eye. There's a long career ahead. One thing is for sure that if he focuses on the process, he works on his fitness, he will go a long way," former India fast bowler Venkatesh Prasad told a leading daily.

Rahul Tewatia: Even though Rajasthan Royals finished at the bottom of the points table, they found a new star in Tewatia. Much has been talked about Tewatia since he hit five sixes against Sheldon Cottrell during his match-winning 53-run knock against Kings XI Punjab -- an innings that turned him into an overnight star. While he has scored 255 runs in 11 innings, he also picked up 10 wickets and impressed all with his all-round cricketing abilities.

Ravi Bishnoi: Leg-spinner Bishnoi, who ended as the highest wicket-taker in the Under-19 World Cup this year with 17 scalps, had a dream IPL debut season. He picked up 12 wickets in 14 innings for Kings XI Punjab and was, without a doubt, one of their shining stars. Bishnoi's victims included the likes of David Warner, Jonny

Bairstow, Rishabh Pant, Aaron Finch, Eoin Morgan -- batsmen who are considered to be well-equipped to tackle spin bowling with ease. Having a bowling style similar to that of Punjab's head coach and ace leg-spinner Anil Kumble, Bishnoi was kept the batsmen in check, using flippers, top-spinners, and googlies to good effect.

T Natarajan: SunRisers Hyderabad, too, found a rising star in left-arm pacer Natarajan. In the absence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the 29-year-old bowler from Tamil Nadu has been one of the highlights in this season. He has picked up 14 wkts 13 matches and was one of the go-to bowlers for captain D Warner whenever he desperately needed wickets.

Ruturaj Gaikwad: One of the very few positives for Chennai Super Kings -- who had their worst IPL season -- was Ruturaj Gaikwad. The right-handed batsman played six innings and scored 204 runs at an average of 51. His runs, including three brilliant half centuries, helped the three-time champions regain some lost pride and end the tournament on a high.

Varun Chakravarthy: Kolkata Knight Riders' leg-spinner Chakravarthy has had a fairy-tale IPL to say the least. The architect-

turned-cricketer picked up 17 wickets in 13 matches and was one of the headline makers of the tournament. Owing to his brilliant performance, Chakravarthy broke into the Indian T20I squad that will tour Australia in December. "It feels surreal to be picked for Australia T20Is. India call-up is definitely a big thing for me. I was really not expecting it," said the 29-year-old spinner.

Arshdeep Singh: Another shining light for Kings XI Punjab was medium-pacer Arshdeep Singh. Although he picked nine wickets in eight matches, the six feet-three inches tall bowler showed great promise as he picked the prized wickets of Rohit Sharma, Manish Pandey, and Andre Russell among others. While he might have remained under the shadow of Mohammed Shami and Chris Jordan, this 21-year-old made his presence felt and showed that he definitely possesses the talent to perform at the international level as well.

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