



Obama's book unleashes Western stereotype of caste, violence in India

NEW YORK: Former US President Barack Obama unleashes the West's worst stereotypical picture of India as a country with "all-too-pervasive" violence and politics revolving around "religion, clan, and caste" in his latest memoir and yet in the same breath talks about Sonia Gandhi, a "mother of European descent", emerging as the most powerful politician who is able to appoint Manmohan Singh from a minority as prime minister. "Across the country, millions continued to live in squalor, trapped in sunbaked villages or labyrinthine slums, even as the titans of Indian industry enjoyed lifestyles that the rajas and moguls of old would have envied," he writes in his new memoir, "A Promised Land".

Photos, crime citation of corrupt cops to be publicised

NEW DELHI: The Centre has decided to put up the pictures of the corrupt police officers and personnel on the notice boards of the police stations along with the citation of their crime. Further, the display would not be limited to the police stations only, the authorities will have to publish the action taken details on social media as well. The decision has been taken as a part of the government's initiative of "police image and public connect".

NATION



Gupkar alliance wants what Pakistan does: BJP

BUSINESS



WPI inflation at 8-mth peak of 1.48% in Oct

SPORTS



Nadal, Thiem ease to opening wins



NITISH SWORN IN BIHAR CM

- ▶ Sushil Modi dropped as Dy CM ▶ 2 BJP leaders appointed Dy CMs
- ▶ PM congratulates Nitish, team ▶ RJD skips oath-taking ceremony

NEW DELHI

JANATA Dal-United president Nitish Kumar took oath as the Bihar Chief Minister on Monday for a fourth straight term at a ceremony in Patna in presence of Union Home minister Amit Shah and BJP chief Jagat Prakash Nadda. Replacing Sushil Modi, who had been Kumar's deputy for 15 years, BJP leaders Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar. The Opposition RJD boycotted the event.

Fourteen other leaders of the NDA alliance -- seven from the BJP, four from the JD(U) and one each from the HAM and the VIP -- took oath as ministers in the new Bihar Cabinet.

Kumar and his council of ministers were administered the oath of office at Raj Bhavan by Governor Phagu Chauhan, a day after the JD(U) chief staked claim to form a new government in the state.

Among those who took oath, five ministers were from the JD(U) while one each was from Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP). JD(U) ministers included old hands like Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Ashok Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Chaudhary besides new



Janata Dal-U president Nitish Kumar takes oath as Chief Minister of Bihar at Raj Bhawan in Patna on Monday

faces Mewa Lal Chaudhary and Sheela Kumari Mandal.

Other than the two Deputy CM designates, those from the BJP included Mangal Pandey, who held the Health portfolio in the previous government, and Amarendra Pratap Singh, Ramprit Paswan, Jibesh Kumar and Ram Surat Rai. HAM MLC Santosh Kumar Suman, son of Jitan Ram Manjhi, also took oath besides Mukesh Sahni, the founder of VIP.

While Tarkishore Prasad belongs to the same Bania community as Sushil Modi, the BJP hopes to send a message to women, who are believed to have voted in larger numbers for the party than the men, with the selection of Renu Devi, who is a Nonia. She earlier served as BJP national vice-president.

After taking oath, Nitish said, "Based on the public's

From the HANS Group of Publications



BJP leaders Renu Devi and Tarkishore Prasad take oath as Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar at Raj Bhawan on Monday



Launching soon...

Deputy Chief Minister. They should be asked about this." There was no official word from the BJP, though sources said Sushil Modi might be accommodated in the Rajya Sabha in the seat that has fallen vacant with Ram Vilas Paswan's death, and made a minister at the Centre, or named the Governor of a state. **Continued on Page 5**

It is time for Trump to concede: Obama

WASHINGTON

IT'S time for US President Donald Trump to concede to President-elect Joe Biden, as there is no scenario to reverse the outcome of the election, his predecessor Barack Obama has said.

Trump, who is refusing to concede, has 232 electoral college votes. He has challenged the election results in various

states including Pennsylvania, Nevada, Michigan, Georgia and Arizona. He had demanded a recount in Wisconsin. Biden has 306 of the 538 electoral college votes, well above the halfway mark of 270.

"Absolutely," Obama told CBNS News in an interview aired on Sunday when asked if in his view, it is time for Trump to concede.

NEW DELHI

THE media has been doing exceptional service by spreading awareness against Covid-19 and has acted as a valuable stakeholder in helping the government in its initiatives, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said on the occasion of National Press Day on Monday.

Be it positive criticism

“From creating mass awareness about important issues to contributing to a behavioural change in society for the larger good, we have seen how the media as a valued stakeholder has furthered the efforts of the government

or highlighting success stories, the media has been continuously adding strength to India's democratic ethos, the prime minister added in his written message on the day, being celebrated virtually with a webinar organised by

the Press Council of India. "From creating mass awareness about important issues to contributing to a behavioural change in society for the larger good, we have seen how the media as a valued stakeholder has fur-

Bharat Biotech launches massive phase 3 trials of Covaxin

HYDERABAD

THE Bharat Biotech Ltd has launched the massive phase 3 clinical trials of its Covid vaccine 'Covaxin'. The company plans to enrol 26,000 participants in total, making it the first phase 3 efficacy study for a Covid-19 vaccine and the largest efficacy trial ever conducted in India.

As part of the trial, 26,000 participants will be enrolled at 25 trial sites across the country over the coming months. Trial volunteers will then receive two intramuscular injections about



28 days apart.

Volunteers who wish to participate in this trial should be over 18 years of age. Participants will be randomly assigned equally to

receive either two 6 microgram (mcg) injections of Covaxin or two shots of a placebo. The trial is double blinded, such that the investigators, the participants and

Biological E Covid vaccine enters phase I/II trial

HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD-BASED Biological E Limited (BE) has initiated a phase I/II clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate following approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI). The announcement was made jointly by BE, Dynavax Technologies Corporation (Dynavax), a US-based vaccine focused

biopharmaceutical company, and Baylor College of Medicine, a health sciences university in Houston, according to a statement.

"We are very happy indeed to transition our potential vaccine candidate to clinical trials and offer one more potential option for the prophylaxis of COVID-19," said Mahima Datla, Managing Director, Biological E Limited, the statement said.

the company will not be aware of who is assigned to which group, the company said in a statement.

Covaxin has so far been evaluated in 1,000 partici-

pants in Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials, with the company saying that the results showed promising safety and immunogenicity data.

Of the 25 sites, eight have

received approval from their respective ethics committees for the clinical trial, according to data on the government's clinical trial registry. **Continued on Page 5**

Moderna announces 94% effectiveness in Covid vaccine

NEW YORK

FOR the second time in the span of 10 days after the US elections, there's a Covid-19 gamechanger on the horizon with US pharma giant Moderna announcing that its vaccine has shown more than 94 per cent effectiveness in preliminary data from the company's ongoing study. Pfizer Inc had announced 90 per cent efficacy exactly a week ago.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL

ADAH SHARMA
@ADAH_SHARMA

Looks for the festive season Adah style

#100YearsOfAdahSharma

#1920to2020



Platinum jewellery market on the rise

PUJA GUPTA

Consumers are willing to spend more than usual on jewellery after the Covid-19 crisis is over, says a recent global study by Platinum Guild International (PGI), India.

“Consumers will lean towards meaningful brands for positive reinforcement as they step out to reclaim their life,” it adds.

Vaishali Banerjee, Managing Director of PGI India shares about the changing dynamics of the Indian jewellery market and millennial’s growing interest in Platinum.

She says, “This pandemic has given us the opportunity for self-introspection, and many are grateful for what they have, cherishing their relationships even more. When it comes to spending, we believe that it will be more deliberate but not necessarily curtailed. According to PGI’s recent Global Study, consumers are willing to spend more than usual on jewellery after the crisis is over. Consumers will lean towards meaningful brands for positive reinforcement as they step out to reclaim their life. They will seek to celebrate meaningful relationships and milestones achieved. Also, India is one of the most promising markets for jewellery sales as the festive season sets in. While consumers have been increasingly shopping online during these times, most of them prefer visiting a physical store to finalize the buying process.”

In the present times, as COVID-19 continues to impact lives around the world, it has also influenced consumer buying behavior. The Global Survey shows that consumers will lean towards what delivers value and has meaning. Jewellery will be a means of positive reinforcement as they seek to mark meaningful relationships and milestones.

“At PGI, the customer is our priority. Our focus is the younger segment and given that platinum is truly rare it feeds into a very different set of needs. It is a mark of discerning taste



Vaishali Banerjee

and has connotations of modernity, status, class and sophistication. Platinum is bought for moments of emotional significance and hence our designs are embedded with meaning. We design it as a marker of important milestones in relationships and life. We study trends in design and innovate accordingly by following what are compelling motivators for our audience and our culture. It is critical for designs to imbibe a mix of Indian and international trends – with a minimalism that sits at the core of it, it is what differentiates our design language and lets it sit apart,” she adds.

Along comes a nail-biting spy fiction

ASKARI JAFFER

‘Along Came A Spyder’ by Apeksha Rao, is a high on humour detective fiction full of twists and turns and lots of action. The prequel to this book, ‘Itsy Bitsy Spyder’ was among the best lockdown reads.

Apeksha is a born and bred Mumbaikar and comes from a family of doctors. She is a homeopath with a theatre background and her case-takings have made her a keen observer of human characteristics, and that helps her craft strong and relatable characters. She wrote her first story at the age of seven and submitted it to Tinkle, a very popular children’s magazine. She wound up her practice and moved with her family, to Bengaluru. She is now a full-time writer. She is also a die-hard foodie, who’s still trying to find the best vadapav in Bengaluru.

She has twin boys, who keep her on her toes. Apeksha’s husband is her inspiration to write, as well as her biggest critic.

Apeksha shares, “My debut novel, ‘Along Came A Spyder’, was published in September 2020 by TreeShade Books. I’ve also published the prequel to the book as a novella on Kindle, called ‘Itsy Bitsy Spyder’.

I rediscovered my love for writing when I was on maternity leave, and I haven’t stopped writing since then. This book combines my two favourite genres - espionage and Young adult (YA). I wanted to write something that had the excitement of spy fiction, as well as the sarcasm and fun of YA.”

Apeksha shares about the fiction that, “Along Came A Spyder’ is the story of a young girl who wants to be a spy, discovers a secret sisterhood of teen spies, The Spyders, and wants to join them.”

“Being passionate about spying, I started writing short stories about a group of teenagers who were solving crimes, and I evolved them into a group of teen spies,” adds Apeksha. She is currently working on a historical thriller set in the nineteenth century.



EARLY PRAISE

“A fantastic spy story which keeps you on the edge and you can’t stop till you finish the book. A fantastic debut book. Look forward to reading more from the author.”- Kanchana Banerjee, author of Nobody’s Child and A Forgotten Affair. “Apeksha Rao writes a taut espionage thriller with a twist-a-minute narrative. The language is flawless, the characterization spot-on, and the plot is filled with rich details. It is the kind of story that you’d leave

all your other work aside to read. Be warned!”- Neil D’Silva, author of Haunted, Yakshini and Maya’s New Husband

“A thrilling read with several nail-biting moments. Will keep you hooked till the end”- Andaleeb Wajid, author of The Legend Of The Wolf

“Witty, snarky and a thorough entertainer, Along Came a Spyder is a welcome addition to India’s YA genre.”- Shilpa Suraj, author of Love, Marriage and Other Disasters, Saved by Love, and Driven by Desire.



Apeksha Rao

Coconut oil: The super ingredient for your hair

Why bother with the tiresome and expensive hunt for exotic oils, when there’s a super oil, literally growing in our own backyard. It’s abundantly available, its benefits are versatile, it’s superior among its peers– it’s coconut oil. The old charm of this oil has sustained its influence for centuries, and remains a staple in most homes. Here’s why.

Repairs Damage

The woes of pollution, styling, and a busy lifestyles are bound to take a toll on your mane. Luckily, the solution is well at hand. Hair damage can be a thing of the past with coconut oil to the rescue. Use it as a shield or a pacifier, the choice is yours. For the former, a small coin-size amount, spread across your hair, works to form a layer that protects from the heat of styling gadgets and the sun. As a repair mechanism, this same oil goes deeper than any other oil

The versatility of coconut oil is the underlying factor behind it’s long reigning popularity

into the hair and scalp to repair and truly exhibit the concept of ‘beauty from within’.

Secret behind Voluminous Hair

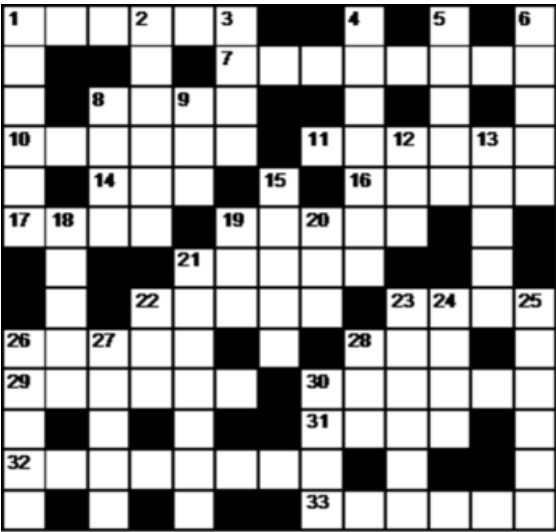
An immediate consequence of protected and well-nourished hair, is increased growth and more volume. The nutrients from this powerful nut oil work like magic to strengthen the roots, accentuate the growth, and improve the health of the scalp. The end result is a head full of lustrous and

bouncy locks. Bid adieu to bad hair days.

The Magic of Preventing Greying

Environmental factors, stress, hormonal changes, the list goes on toward the many dangers of greying. Luckily, help is around the corner. Worry no more. Grab your bottle of coconut oil and massage away to improve circulation around the scalp and simultaneously offer intensive nourishment from the outside. The combined effect is a sure shot formula toward grey hair prevention. As the dual effect takes hold, another positive side effect is hair lustre like never before.

Coconut oil your one stop shop to hair care and does the job far better than its counterparts. Apply like a serum, massage for intensive care, leave on overnight for a good old-fashioned soak, the choice is yours and the benefits endless. —PG



ANAND S APRON
E ORATORY F
FIFTY E TROLL
G I MARIE A
CHUFFED S ETC
ESPY T MARVEL
N S RERUN E O
TEEMED S UNIT
SET O THIRSTS
R MCCOY A A
LILAC U INALL
E GUARANI I
ORDER S NANCY

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 16

CROSSWORD

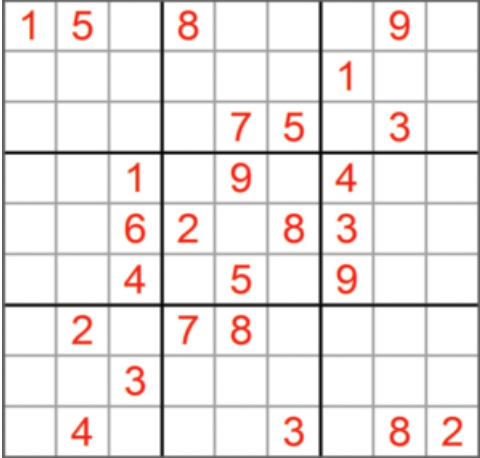
Across

- Material (6)
- Plea (8)
- Culture medium (4)
- Stir to action (6)
- Not susceptible (6)
- Mass of eggs in fish (3)
- Labyrinths (5)
- Portent (4)
- Tack on (5)
- Perspire (5)
- Russian prison camp (5)
- Sound made by a snake (4)
- Bush (5)
- Dove sound (3)
- Fly from Africa (6)
- Speaks publicly (6)
- Pianist Hess (4)
- The x-coordinate of a point (8)
- Contraction of need not (6)

Down

- Go before (6)
- Area or locality ? (6)
- Bird bill part (4)
- A ring of rope (7)
- Capital of Liechtenstein (5)
- Harplike instruments (5)
- An area of land (4)
- Broke bread (3)
- To the ___ (fully) (3)
- Exigencies (5)
- Work dough (5)
- Legends or epics (5)
- Boring tool (3)
- An old horse (3)
- Lower layer of earth (7)
- Alimentary canal (3)
- Gruff (6)
- Greek vowel (4)
- Six-line stanza (6)
- Lieu (5)
- Employ again (5)
- Be upset (3)
- Neighbour of Yemen (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 16

8 7 1 2 9 6 5 4 3
4 6 5 1 7 3 2 9 8
3 9 2 8 4 5 7 1 6
2 1 6 3 8 9 4 5 7
5 4 3 6 1 7 8 2 9
7 8 9 5 2 4 3 6 1
9 3 4 7 6 2 1 8 5
1 2 7 9 5 8 6 3 4
6 5 8 4 3 1 9 7 2

NEWS ROUNDUP

Taapsee Pannu gives 'Rashmi Rocket' twist to her life

Actress Taapsee Pannu has a great sense of humour. She gave a hilarious Rashmi Rocket twist to her life, noting how she runs from one location to another.

Taapsee posted a picture on Instagram. In the image, she is seen running hurriedly dressed in athleisure.

“Running from one location to another. Pune -> Lonavala -> Mumbai #RashmiRocket,” she wrote alongside the image.

Directed by Akarsh Khurana, “Rashmi Rocket” is about a runner from the Rann of Kutch who fights for her identity and becomes an athlete. Actor Priyanshu Painyuli will be seen playing the role of Taapsee’s husband in the project.

Taapsee recently shared that the upcoming sports drama will be one of many firsts for her. She posted a picture on Instagram where she is seen on a racing track, all set to run.

“Get set.....#RashmiRocket This one is going to be one of many firsts!” she has written alongside the image.



GUPKAR ALLIANCE WANTS WHAT PAKISTAN DOES: BJP

Questions Congress' stand on Article 370

NEW DELHI

THE Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday criticised the newly formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, or Gupkar Alliance, describing it as "unholy".

At a press conference, the BJP's spokesperson Sambit Patra said that the alliance was aimed at opposing the implementation of laws duly passed by Parliament. Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also present.

"Gupkar Alliance wants exactly what Pakistan and anti-India countries want," he said. "Pakistan has gone to every forum and spoken against the removal of Article 370. The Gupkar Alliance says the same thing."

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a tie-up of six parties, which was formed in October with the agenda of reinstating the now abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which provided special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Patra's comments come ahead of the District Development Council polls in Jammu and Kashmir, which the Gupkar Alliance parties have decided to fight together. Pointing out that the Congress, too, is part of the alliance, Patra referred to a statement which he said was released by the party's Jammu and Kashmir president Ghulam Ahmed Mir, who called for defeating "the forces that have forcefully [been] implementing the laws in the Union Territory". Taking exception to this statement, Patra said that the law to abrogate Article 370 was passed in the Parliament. He further hit back at the Congress for suggesting that it was being force-



Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addresses a press conference on Article 370, in New Delhi on Monday

fully implemented.

"The BJP would like to ask Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi if they stand by the comments made by leaders in the Gupkar Alliance," he said.

He also made references to an alleged comment made by National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah on taking "China's support" on the matter of reinstating Article 370 and Peoples Democratic Party Leader Mehbooba Mufti's recent comments on the national flag.

"Is this alliance Gupkar or Guptachar (spy)?" Patra remarked. "I would want Rahulji and Soniaji [to say] if they are in agreement

with the statements made by Mufti and Abdullah." The BJP spokesperson also took cue from the recent comments made by former United States President Barack Obama and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Shivanand Tiwari on Rahul Gandhi, to criticise the Congress leader. "When Obama got to know him [Gandhi] in four-five days, then people who interact with him on a daily basis, would also have realised what he is," he said. Referring to Tiwari's comment he said that Gandhi was "a non-performing picnic-ing president".

Trump makes U-turn after accepting Biden's triumph

NEW YORK

MERCURIAL President Donald Trump has sowed confusion in the post-election transition taking back within hours an admission of defeat by Democrat Joe Biden and now claiming, "We will win."

Trump, who conducts his politics through tweets, appeared to grudgingly concede the election to Biden early Sunday morning with a passive-aggressive tweet that amounted to a concession: "He won because the Election was Rigged."

But within hours he made a U-turn, tweeting, "RIGGED ELECTION. WE WILL WIN!"

Trump, who has filed cases - some unsuccessfully - regarding the election and plans more, tweeted, "He only won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA. I concede NOTHING! We have a long way to go. This was a RIGGED ELECTION!"

There has been no official declaration of results with votes still being counted. However, the mainstream US media last week declared Biden the winner based on their projections of the November 3 election's outcome. On Friday the media gave 306 electoral college votes to Biden, more than the 270 required to win, and 232 to Trump. The media verdict has been widely accepted even by some Republicans and by many international leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has congratulated Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

On Friday, Biden declared, "I am the president-elect," while giving a warning about the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since neither Trump has officially conceded the election to Biden nor have officials, who have a December 14 deadline, declared Biden the winner, Biden's team is not able to access to government facilities or important information on matters like the Covid-19 pandemic and national security. Trump taking back his low-key admission of defeat could complicate the transition as Biden will have to hit the ground running on January 20 when he is sworn-in as president.

Former Surgeon General Vivek Murty, who is the co-chair of Biden's Covid-19 advisory panel, told a Fox News TV interviewer that it was important to have dialogues with Trump officials on the vaccine distribution because "you want to get them started as soon as possible."

Anthony Fauci, who is the Trump administration's face of the war on Covid-19 as the top sci-



entist on the pandemic, said in an interview to CNN, "It would be better if we can start working with them."

The first inkling that Trump may acknowledge Biden as the president-elect came on Friday at a White House briefing on the progress of his Covid-19 vaccination programme, Operation Warp Speed.

While discussing the possibility of a coronavirus-induced lockdown he said, "Whatever happens in the future, who knows, which administration will be, I guess time will tell."

Doubling down on his legal challenges to the election, where he has said that there was widespread fraud, he said, "I look forward to Mayor Giuliani spearheading the legal effort to defend OUR RIGHT to FREE and FAIR ELECTIONS!"

After his campaign suffered a series of legal setbacks in Pennsylvania and Michigan, Trump appointed former Rudy Giuliani, his personal lawyer and former New York mayor, to oversee the cases on alleged election irregularities. Continuing with his allegations of voter fraud, Trump added in his tweet about Biden winning, "NO VOTE WATCHERS OR OBSERVERS allowed, vote tabulated by a Radical Left privately owned company, Dominion, with a bad reputation & bum equipment that couldn't even qualify for Texas (which I won by a lot!), the Fake & Silent Media, & more!"

Dominion is a company that provides software for conducting elections and Trump supporters have asserted that it switched thousands of Trump's votes to Biden. In Michigan, where inaccuracies in reporting the votes were reported, officials said that they were due to human error and were not because of the software.

With masks on devotees trek Sabarimala, pray at Lord Ayyappa temple

SABARIMALA

WEARING masks and strictly adhering to COVID-19 protocols, devotees of Lord Ayyappa trekked the holy hill Sabarimala and offered prayers at the temple here as the shrine opened for the annual two-month-long Mandala-Makaravilakku season on Monday morning. It is the first annual pilgrimage season at the hill temple after the coronavirus outbreak.

"Sannidhanam", the temple complex which used to witness a sea of devotees on the first day of the Malayalam month of

Vrichikam, saw only few devotees this morning.

Pilgrims were allowed to trek the hills since 3 am from Pampa, the base camp, through a virtual queue system, temple officials said. Pilgrims from neighbouring states were among the most who flocked to the shrine in the initial hours, Devaswom Board sources here said.

Mask-wearing employees of Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages the shrine and police personnel kept vigil at various points from the base camps to the temple complex to ensure that devotees fol-



lowed the COVID protocols in a strict manner.

The rituals began with tantrtr (head priest), Kantaru Rajeevaru, performing the "Ash-

tadravya Maha Ganapathy homam" at the Sannidhanam, they said.

Though the shrine opened last evening, there was no spe-

Hackers target vaccine makers

WASHINGTON

MICROSOFT has sounded the alarm that state-sponsored hackers are targeting COVID vaccine makers with companies involved in making vaccines for the coronavirus having to ward off cyberattacks over the past few weeks. Microsoft hasn't minced any words and says that these hacking attempts and cyberattacks are coming from what it calls state backed hacking groups, and the states in question being Russia and North Korea. At least 7 companies currently involved in the COVID vaccine development and trials have been targeted. The attacks have been targeting researchers and hospitals in India, Canada, France, South Korea and the US, though Microsoft has not named any companies or specific cyberattack targets.



The attacks came from Strontium, Russian group also known as Fancy bear as well as two hacking groups based in North Korea called Zinc and Cerium. "Strontium continues to use password spray and brute force login attempts to steal login credentials. These are attacks that aim to break into people's accounts using thousands or millions of rapid attempts. Zinc has primarily used spear-phishing lures for credential theft, sending messages with fabricated job descriptions pretending to be recruiters. Cerium engaged in spear-phishing email lures using Covid-19 themes while masquerading as

World Health Organization representatives," says Tom Burt - Corporate Vice President, Customer Security & Trust, Microsoft. The company says all these attempts were blocked by the security protections built into their products and have since notified all the organizations that were targeted.

Microsoft is also pushing for an international law that protects healthcare facilities from cyberattacks. "Microsoft is calling on the world's leaders to affirm that international law protects health care facilities and to take action to enforce the law. We believe the law should be enforced not just when attacks originate from government agencies but also when they originate from criminal groups that governments enable to operate - or even facilitate - within their borders. This is criminal activity that cannot be tolerated," says Burt.

Hans predictions on Nitish turn true

The year 2020 has sprung many surprises. The worst-ever is the spread of pandemic by Covid-19 virus, which has crippled the entire world. But a prediction with precision was made by astrologer and The Hans India AGM Rambabu in March, 200 days ago. The astrologer in Ugadi's predictions had proclaimed that JD-U President and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar will bounce back as chief minister of the state in the Assembly elections. This judgement was based on the candidates' horoscope. He also predicted US President Donald Trump's defeat that came true earlier this month!



ITBP honours 5-yr-old Ladakh boy

LADAKH

REMEMBER the 5-year-old boy who broke the internet after his salute video went viral? Almost a month after a video of Nawang Namgyal saluting Indo-Tibetan Border Police soldiers in Ladakh was shared widely on social media, the paramilitary force has posted another inspiring video of the boy. "Happy and inspiring again...Nawang Namgyal, the five years old student of LKG salutes Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) jawans near a border village in Ladakh," ITBP said while posting a video of the boy in a custom made ITBP uniform. Son of a school teacher, Namgyal is a lower kindergarten student in one of the border villages in Ladakh's Chushul area.

WHO registers highest one-day spike of 6.6 lakh Corona cases

LONDON

THE World Health Organisation's coronavirus dashboard showed a record daily number of new Covid-19 cases over the weekend.

The WHO's figures for Saturday showed that 660,905 coronavirus cases were reported to the UN health agency, setting a new high watermark. That number, and the 645,410 registered on Friday, surpassed the previous daily record high of 614,013 recorded on November 7.

Within Saturday's new case



numbers, the WHO's Americas region registered a one-day record high of 269,225 new confirmed cases.

Within each week, the pattern of cases being reported to the WHO tends to peak towards Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and dip around Tuesday and Wednesday. According to the WHO's figures, there have been

more than 53.7 million confirmed cases of the disease in total since the start of the pandemic, while over 1.3 million people have lost their lives.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned Friday that there was "a long way to go" in getting the virus under control globally.

The 9,928 deaths reported to the WHO on Thursday, 9,567 on Friday and 9,924 on Saturday marked the first time that more than 9,500 deaths have been registered on three consecutive days.

season. During Saturdays and Sundays, 2,000 people would be allowed for darshan and on Mandala pooja and Makaravilakku days 5,000 pilgrims would be permitted, it added.

In view of the pandemic, the Health department has made elaborate arrangements for antigen tests in various centres including all bus stands and railway stations at Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruvalla, Chengannur and Kottayam, where pilgrims arrive to proceed to the Ayyappa temple.

The auspicious Mandala pooja would be held on December 26.

Can the Chinese be trusted again?

The eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China were held on 6 November at Chushul. After the talks, both sides gave perfunctory diplomatic statements of having had candid discussions on disengagement and to carry the process forward as per the consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries. Prior to this development, it was presumed that the status quo would continue indefinitely.

The Chinese Communist Party leaflet, Global Times, initially denied reports of any understanding reached between the two countries calling such reports appearing in a section of the Indian media and social media as propaganda. Within no time, it altered its position and stated that an understanding was reached, after all. Going by its campaign, it is to be understood that the understanding between the two countries was in line with the Chinese proposals of withdrawals by both.

It means that India would honour the Chinese perception of the LAC and withdraw from the heights of the Kailash range as well from the Finger 4 area of the Pangong Tso and agreed to declaring the area between Finger 4 and Finger 8 as a no-patrol zone. Next, it kept repeating the story that both sides would begin their backward moves at once.

This is sheer absurdity. Why should India withdraw from the current positions of strength and leave the heights it occupied post-Galwan (on the intervening night of August 29-30)? Commonsense tells us that if a position of strength is vacated by India, the Chinese would ensure that they would never again allow us to get back there. Several experts have been warning against trusting the crooked Chinese. Several military experts have expressed their views on this issue advising India against the move.

It is common knowledge that since India secured the dominating heights on the Kailash Range on the night of 29/30 August, during the sixth and seventh round of military talks, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had been persistent that disengagement must begin with our withdrawal from the Kailash Range because India has 'altered the status

quo'. Beijing remained ambiguous with respect to disengagement in the Depsang Plains and north of Pangong Tso, claiming that it had merely secured its own territory up to the 1959 Claim Line.

Whoever says that the 1959 line is recognized by India. If there is an alteration in the region, it is done by the Chinese who have altered the status of the Line of Actual Control in violation of the 1993 agreement. The problem is that China has now clearly understood that India will be no pushover and its hold over the Kailash range puts spokes in the Chinese plans to control the lower reaches of the Himalayas. China is planning to have an unhindered access upto Daulat Beg Oldi taking away the advantage of India completely so that it could dictate terms to Indians.

What has China proposed here? That the PLA will withdraw east of Finger 8 (north of Pangong Tso) while Indians should withdraw to Dhan Singh Thapa post, west of Finger 3 to create a buffer zone of non-deployment. China does not mention Depsang Plains at all. India should beware of this tactic of China creating a buffer zone on the Indian side. If it is done, this will be the costliest mistake of India.

AN ATTEMPT TO REGULATE SOCIAL MEDIA

TARGETING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION?



Whether Government of India is extending its censorship power to news and current affairs? The notification by President Rammath Kovind extends the power to pre-censor cinema content on the Internet platform. At the same time, does it surreptitiously attempt to censor news and current affairs also?

News is categorised as film

It was a very clever drafting of notification for the Government of India. The 'news and current affairs' content on the online platforms should not have been added under the sub-category of 'Press' but it has been placed under head 'Films'. Is it a mischievous or mistaken inclusion?

The Constitution of India authorised pre-censorship of 'films'. The 'pre-censorship' of news content amounts to suppression of freedom of speech and expression and makes 'press' or 'media' totally dependent upon the executive government, that happened during the infamous years of Emergency.

The Government simply used the Second Schedule of Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 under the heading "Ministry of Information and Broadcasting" to issue notification on November 10, published on Gazette, that says that 'films and audio visual programmes made available by online content providers' and 'news and current affairs content on online platforms' would be brought under the Ministry. Under these Rules 1961, the Ministry has nine major categories dealing with broadcasting policy administration, cable TV policy, radio, Doordarshan, films, advertising and visual publicity, press, publications, and research and reference.

The officers are trying to convince the press that it was only shift of control from Ministry of IT to Ministry of I&B, as the digital platform of OTT etc are earlier under Ministry of IT but now such content will be regulated by I&B. Their main appears to be to bring OTT platform under the regulation on par with Print, Radio, TV and Films. The online space is governed by the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Government draws super-powers from this enactment to block, filter and take down the content online. The Executive can issue orders turning off the internet services completely. Blocking the internet services is the highest form of limitation on the media and communication.

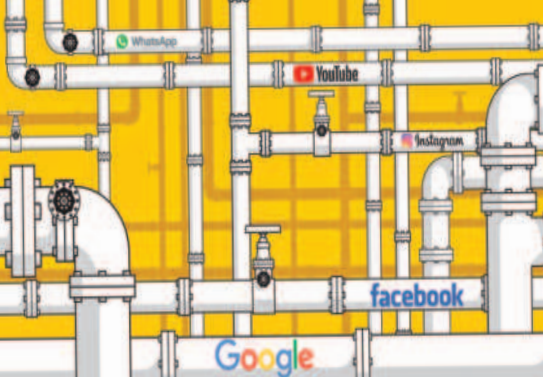
Regulations on media

It is basically not correct to say that various kinds of media were not regulated. Most powerful law that is in the hands of the government is the Information Technology Act, 2000. This Act imposed criminal liability of "intermediaries" for the content that they upload or circulate.

Under Section 69A of the IT Act, online content can also be and is taken down entirely. This section was upheld by the Supreme Court as constitutional. The process of issuing blocking orders is criticised to be "opaque and the reasoning offered in orders is not subject to public scrutiny".

There are several instances of the government using these powers to direct the service providers and social media platforms from taking down posts or pages or block certain websites. For this they have mostly used the ground of copyright violation/content piracy. Other ground is that the hosting of content that was deemed offensive. With this executive power, the Government has made the foreign digital platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to comply with these demands.

Besides this strong hand of regulatory framework of the IT Act, the digital media outlets are generally subjected to the same criminal laws, and rules governing the publi-



There are several instances of the government using these powers to direct the service providers and social media platforms from taking down posts or pages or block certain websites. For this they have mostly used the ground of copyright violation/content piracy. Other ground is that the hosting of content that was deemed offensive. With this executive power, the Government has made the foreign digital platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to comply with these demands

cation or dissemination of other forms of content, such as the laws of civil and criminal defamation, and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

Necessary and expedient

Section 20 of Cable TV Regulation Network Act empowered the Government to prohibit transmission of content on an ambiguous ground like whenever it is "necessary or expedient" in the interest of "public order, decency or morality," or when there is a threat to the sovereignty, integrity or friendly relations of India with other states. Section 6 as well as the Programme Code is concerned with content that shows contempt for India's various communities or can incite violence. Government can issue advisories, warnings and orders, based on the Programme Code.

There are cases where the transmission was fully prohibited. For example, Aaj Tak was given an advisory for organising and broadcasting a sting operation around Muzaffarnagar riots. Janmat TV-Live India had broadcast a sting operation on prostitutes, while Aaj Tak and ABP which has telecast a conversation allegedly between terrorists. In most of these case advisories were issued.

Press Council

For print media, Press Council of India was established in 1966, which has limited powers to censure newspapers and editors. There are no powers to PCI to impose any punitive sanctions. The PCI can at the most warn, admonish or censure or disapprove or ask the newspapers to publish clarifications.

Cinema content

For cinema the Government of India has the Cinematography Act that gave power to examine the content of the cinema and permit various kinds of exhibitions including the cutting of certain scenes. Earlier the Government was aiming at regulating the digital broadcasting, which means to formulate a policy that would regulate news and current affairs content telecast through YouTube, Facebook and WhatsApp with the same vigour of control over conventional broadcasting. At present the

government does not allow private FM stations to broadcast news and current affairs. But this kind of prohibition is not possible to web radios.

Another huge space for the people is to upload any video content through YouTube or WhatsApp which can be easily accessed to by all other people in India or abroad. Unlimited number of video channels emerged on varied subjects including news and current affairs. There is no condition imposed to secure licence from I and B Ministry.

Recently the Centre assured the Supreme Court while hearing the writ petition on controversy over the content vilifying the Muslim community telecast by Sudarshan News, to bring in regulation for digital media. At the same time the affidavit filed by the officer of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting stated that sufficient framework and judicial pronouncements were already available to regulate the electronic and print media. But there were no controls over digital media, the Ministry stated.

One year ago in 2019, it was reported that Government was contemplating a censor law to control the streaming of cinema content through Netflix, Hotstar or Amazon Prime etc on the complaints alleging that content was obscene or insulting to religious sentiment.

Code of self-regulation

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) launched the 'Code for Self-Regulation of Online Curated Content Providers' on February 5, 2020. Earlier a 'Code of Best Practices for Online Curated Content Providers' was developed in January 2019.

While the 2019 code had nine signatories excluding Netflix, Zee5, AltBalaji, Arre and ErosNow. 2020 code has four signatories: Hotstar, Voot, Jio and SonyLiv. Major platforms like Amazon (Prime) and Google (YouTube Premium) did not join this code.

This Code 2020 seeks to establish an independent enforcement authority called the Digital Content Complaint Council (DCCC) to oversee a signatory's content related practices. This DCCC mechanism is eerily similar and largely derivative of the Broadcast Content Complaints Council (BCCC) (under the Indian Broadcasting Foundation) which essentially governs content on non-news and television channels in India.

The proposed DCCC is meant to be chaired by a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge. Also, the DCCC is designed to include three members from national level statutory commissions like the National Commission for Women (NCW), the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) or the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

It is not known how this code has been developed, who the stakeholders consulted and how effective it could be. The code gives power to remove the content i.e., to censor the digital content of cinema, news and current affairs, on very ambiguous grounds. Hence it is not possible to give legal status to this code also.

A renewed attempt to control

The present attempt of the Union Government to control the content of the cinema on digital platform and also news and current affairs has every potential issue of imposing pre-censorship kind of restrictions on the freedom of speech and expression which is not envisaged under Article 19(1)(a) and (2). If the notification signed by the President on November 10 means another attempt to curb the criticism. Censoring cinema content could not be a major issue, as that was already permitted, but extend similar restrictions to news content will suppress the voices, opposition, dissent, and criticism, which is totally against the democracy.

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



Ministry eye on OTT-online content

VINOD MIRANI

SINCE the first talked-about Made in India OTT content, Sacred Games, featured on Netflix in June 2018, there has been hue and cry about the kind of content that was peddled in the name of home entertainment. The feature was everything that the CBFC would have rejected after watching the first few minutes. Just about everybody who watched it found it gory, macabre replete with foul words, violence sans reason with overdose of sex, unnatural at that.

Sacred Games had all that neither the Indian Censors Board would allow or was suited to be seen at home. It was not porn, it was worse. It was a script of convenience. A lay despo walks in, kills the reigning don of an area in Mumbai and becomes the new don! Is becoming a don so easy in Mumbai? If that was not all, he takes over the city!

Fine, the writer's imagination should have stopped here. After all, he was, probably, just giving vent to his dreams -- that of becoming a different writer. More a show of deprivation.

I remember a time from the single screen era. There were some periods that were considered dull for the release of a new film. The exhibitors had to feed their cinemas with dubbed films from South or re-runs of successful old films to keep the business going. There were areas where the audience was majorly labour class in every city and town, and the exhibitors there preferred these South Indian dubbed films, especially from the Malayalam film industry, which was rather bolder with depiction of sex.

The posters and banners of such films promised sex scenes which were not even a part of the film. In the film, it was left to the imagination of this lower strata viewer that had landed up in the metro to work and feed a family back home. But, even this class, which toiled to earn a living, had some shame and, if they were drawn to such a film, it was only during the night shows which, in those days, commenced at 9pm. They could not be seen entering such a screening in broad daylight.

And here with OTT, we are talking about family viewers who are expected to watch programmes with family!

Then, the arrival of OTT in India, on which neither the authorities nor the Indian Censor Board had so far no control, let content-givers vent their filthiest of creativity. More such content followed; even an Arya, which did not need to depict sex added it 'just to be safe.' Except two of the best and most successful OTT shows, Special Ops and Scam 1992 and a few others, just about every content maker for the OTT seems to be convinced that repulsive content sells! May be, to the OTT platforms it sells, not to the ultimate consumer, the viewer.

But, Sacred Games and other such programmes that followed, raised many eyebrows and, from the day of its launch on the OTT, a demand rose for a Censor Board-like check on OTT content. I am naming Censor Board just because it is a content controlling body, not because it has proved to be effective in any way!

Sex and violence were not the only ingredients that were bothersome. There were some programmes that took liberty while depicting the armed forces or religion. There was much controversy about Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl which dealt with the subject of the India Air Force and the recent Laxmi Bomb which was later retitled Just Laxmi.

For them, it would be better to know that in India, when it comes to providing entertainment, the watch word is Identification. The viewer has to find the story familiar or, at least, plausible. One he can relate with. A lot of films, or almost all, dealing with stories about the Bahubalis (strongmen) of UP and Bihar have failed when released theatrically.

People don't take lightly anymore to religion or nationalism being compromised in anyway in the name of entertainment. However, some makers think making such a content raises controversy and generates a lot of free publicity and awareness, leading to creation of viewers.

I have observed many times that the death of a star may boost a film's prospects, controversy never did. I suppose, what applied to films will also work the same way with OTT content.

A lot of good content in various languages followed and was much appreciated. But, for some reasons, there was a certain lot who probably thought it was trendy, or that they were living up to international standards, by depicting all that was repulsive.

The difference between feature filmmakers and OTT content makers is that, while filmmakers are usually pedigreed, the other kind is, in most cases, Fly by Night kind or, the small-time filmmakers. The idea is to make money and, since the OTT platforms need to create content suitable for India, these makers are cashing in.

The cinema business and its taxation were always a state government subject being on the concurrent list till GST regime came into being. Each state made concessions for the new trend of multiplex building, giving them tax holidays and other sops. The old single screen cinemas that had no such benefits and old rates of taxations and about 20-plus licences to renew every year, stood no chance.

Single screen cinemas started closing down, depriving the masses of affordable entertainment. (A cinematographer of repute, Hemant Chaturvedi, who has shot films like Company, Maqbool, Ishaqzaade, Kurbaan and Brothers among many others, has embarked on a mission to click photographs of these closed down single screens all over Hindi belt of India, which are in a change of user status. He plans to compile his work into a voluminous book and that book will show the pathetic state of these cinema halls, which once enthralled thousands of people every week).

It was an unfair deal meted out to the single screen cinemas that while multiplexes got all the benefits, there was no provision to protect the traditional single screens.

This example is necessary because the same is the case when it comes to the theatrical exhibition and OTT content. While the theatrical cinema is controlled by various regulations including the censorships, OTT content, so far, had no such ombudsman not watching over what they vended.

Surprising that the various governments, which imposed censorship on films with such a heavy hand, let the OTT platforms enter uncontrolled since they made their entry in India!

Like multiplexes killed the single screen, the unchecked OTT would certainly limit the appeal of the theatre-going experience! There has to be a level playing field.

So, now, rather late than never, the government at the Centre has woken up to this anomaly. The OTT and other digital content including the news portals will henceforth be subject to scrutiny by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The Cinematograph Act, which deals with the public exhibition of films, should have been amended the day the first OTT platform entered India.

But, how will the government implement censorship on OTT is the question, since no government has been able to manage even the CBFC satisfactorily so far since the Cinematograph Act 1952!

How will the government control OTT content is the question. As a matter of fact, India has all the relevant laws to deal with all sorts of situations, but lacks grossly in its implementation. When it comes to films, there are guidelines laid down, for OTT there are no such guidelines. By going through the content that has already been released in the public domain, the Ministry can start with forming the basic broad guidelines and then work on fine-tuning gradually.

(Vinod Mirani is a veteran film writer and box office analyst. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

BJP's future moves

With NDA winning the recent Bihar election with flying colours proving most of the exit polls wrong, Nitish Kumar is all set to take the oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the 7th term on 16th Nov ("Nitish back as Bihar CM" The Hans India, Nov 16). There is also a buzz going around that Bihar might get 2 Deputy Chief Ministers from the Saffron party. BJP's move is not arcane anymore and it is clear that BJP leadership wants to come out of Nitish's shadow in next five years by nurturing the future leaders in Bihar, which is the only state in the Hindi heartland where BJP had not formed the government on its own.

Vinayaka M, Bengaluru

Move over please, Trump!

US President Donald Trump has set a bad example for the upcoming world leaders and politicians by not accepting the US election 2020 result. His adamant behaviour and unpredictable nature is really a cause of concern which gives him defeat in this election. So it is the time for him to accept the US election result 2020 and pave the way for elect President Joe Biden to assume the office without any hiccups.

It will be no doubt, when people of the US and the world remember Donald Trump as a bad man, adamant person

in history. The time has come when Donald Trump should hand over the administration process smoothly to elect President Joe Biden and give the opportunity to take the US President's oath on January 20, 2021 as per rules and regulations.

Syed Nissar Mehdi, Hyderabad

India and RCEP

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was signed after a decade of serious negotiations and a mega Asian trading bloc was formed. Fifteen ASEAN countries except India are part of this giant trading bloc. India had pulled out of the pact last year on the grounds that it did not satisfactorily address New Delhi's outstanding issues and concerns.

Considering that India's ultimate goal has been to get rid of Asian supply chain based on China-centric trade and that RCEP will strengthen China's central position in the intra-Asian trade, Indian doubts about the pact are justified. However, India cannot afford to turn its back on free trade in this way.

There are many crucial factors that affect India's free trade. One, domestic demand is not high to strengthen India's growth. Two, the global trade has been disrupted by COVID-19 and US-China conflicts. New supply chains, trade connections and trading infrastructure are crucial at this juncture. If India misses out on these, it could adversely affect its growth.

India must see things in the true perspective. True,

India is not in a position to rejoin RCEP but it must explore other avenues that will enable it to strengthen free trade. For example, India could try the trade agreements with the European Union. Considering India's geopolitical position and economic characteristics, it is a deal worth signing. If India delays it, some other countries will benefit from it.

Venu G S, Kollam

Discriminatory settlement

The bipartite settlement in the banking industry is now signed after a period of three years. This is happening every time. Why so much delay? Can't it be settled within a period of one year from the day it is due? It's IBA that is postponing the meetings every time and brooking delay in the matter.

Every time the IBA and the govt is not showing any interest to settle the matters of the pensioners. The benefits of 100 per cent DA neutralisation has been granted to all pensioners who retired after the year 2002 but not extended to pensioners who retired prior to 2002. Why this unjust discrimination? The pension rules are implemented from 1995 and the benefit of 100 per cent DA neutralisation is not extended to them. The seniors are ignored and all benefits have been extended to retirees who are juniors or retired after a cut-off date fixed by the IBA arbitrarily.

A M Daniel, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

Job scheme works will change the face of villages: Peddireddy

- ▶ Panchayat Raj Minister Ramachandra Reddy says construction of RBKs, wellness centres, bulk milk cooling units and all other works will be completed by March '21
- ▶ States that CM has allocated Rs 10 cr to each Assembly constituency for NREGS works and Rs 5 cr more will be sanctioned for each district
- ▶ Promises that bills below Rs 5 lakh for the works taken up during the TDP govt will be cleared soon subject to works being cleared in vigilance inquiry

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

PANCHAYAT raj and rural development minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to change the face of villages by initiating various developmental works. Speaking to the media along with Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy after a



Panchayat Raj Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Dy CM K Narayana Swamy and others in a review meeting on NREGS at RDO office in Tirupati on Monday

review meeting with officials on the MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) works here on Monday, Ramachandra Reddy said that the construction of Rythu Bharosa Kendras, wellness centres, bulk milk cooling units and other works would be completed by March 2021. Elaborating the works being taken up, he said that the Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had directed allocation

of Rs 10 crore to each Assembly constituency for these works. If these works are completed early, another Rs 5 crore will be allocated to each district for developmental works. Saying that the progress of construction works in the district was satisfactory, he said that the aim is to get first place in the state in completing them. The minister revealed that the bills below Rs 5 lakh for the works taken up during the pre-

vious government would be cleared soon. However, the payments would be made for those bills having cleared in the vigilance inquiry.

Stating that out of 1,012 village secretariats in Chittoor district, only 283 were completed so far, he asked the engineering officials to focus on the issue to see that the remaining works be completed before the deadline. Similarly, out of 932 Rythu Bharosa Kendras, only 336 have been completed.

The minister described YSR Jala Kala as a gift to the farming community and these works were to be completed soon. The bore wells allotted to each constituency have to be drilled immediately under this scheme.

District collector Dr N Bharat Gupta explained that under MGNREGA, 1.61 crore working days were provided in the district so far by spending Rs 180 crore. RDO V Kanaka Narasa Reddy, MGNREGA director Chinataiah, council member Viswanath, District Water Management Agency project director Chandrasekhar and other officials also took part.

CBI registers case on 17 for anti-judiciary remarks

AMARAVATI

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against 17 people, including one unknown, over their "abusive, life-threatening and intimidating postings" in social media against the judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The First Information Report (FIR) was registered on November 11 based on the complaint filed by High Court registrar general B Rajasekhara. The High Court had on October 12 ordered a probe by the CBI into such postings against the judges. The HC bench comprising Justices Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi had directed the CBI to submit a report in a sealed cover in eight weeks and posted the case to December 14 for further hearing.

The High Court had asked the CBI to examine whether the attacks on judiciary were made as a result of a "larger conspiracy" and, if so, take appropriate action against the culprits "irrespective of the post and position."

Accordingly, the CBI office in Visakhapatnam registered the case under various Sections, including 506 (punishment for



- ▶ The FIR was registered on Nov 11 on the basis of complaint filed by HC Registrar General
- ▶ High Court directed the Central agency on Oct 12 to submit a report in 8 weeks on the investigation
- ▶ The court asked the CBI to examine whether the attacks on judiciary were a result of a 'larger conspiracy'

criminal intimidation) of Indian Penal Code and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act. While 16 of the accused have been named, the 17th one has been marked as 'unknown.' These cases were initially registered by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Andhra Pradesh but the High Court expressed serious displeasure over

its investigation in its October 12 order.

The court noted that the Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Chief Minister had also not restrained themselves in making "scathing remarks" against the Judiciary. "Member of Rajya Sabha, namely, Vijayasai Reddy, has joined together in a move to make scathing remarks against the High Court." "Such comments from the key personnel who are occupying posts of prominence, authoritative and constitutional in nature, targeting the judges had severely affected the reputation of Judiciary as an independent institution. Thus, it appears that a concerted effort has been made to malign the institution, having larger conspiracy," it noted.

The court also named YSRC MP (Lok Sabha) Nandigam Suresh, former MLA Amanchi Krishna Mohan, standing counsel for the AP Assembly Metta Chandrasekhar Rao and others in the case and found fault with the CID that no proper action, as mandated under Code of Criminal Procedure, has been taken against the accused till date.

Somu assures completion of Polavaram by Centre

- Stresses that hight of the multi-purpose project will not be reduced
- Accuses political parties of created unnecessary controversy over the project
- BJP leaders say Naidu did not even know the importance of merging seven mandals from TS in AP when the Centre took the decision in 2014

AMARAVATI

BJP state president Somu Veerajulu on Monday assured that the Central government will definitely complete the Polavaram project.

"The Central government will definitely build Polavaram. It is a national project; you (political parties) are unnecessarily creating a controversy," said Veerajulu.

He also said that the height of the Polavaram project will not be reduced. His remarks follow claims by certain quarters that its height will be reduced that could lead to deprivation of water to some places.

Meanwhile, the BJP leader also lashed out at a Telugu daily's editor for his articles and challenged him to talk to TDP national presi-



BJP state president and MLC Somu Veerajulu, Tobacco Board chairman Yadlapati Raghunatha Babu and party leaders addressing a press conference at new state party office in Vijayawada on Monday

dent N Chandrababu Naidu and bring Bhadrachalam, a temple town in Telangana, to Andhra Pradesh.

He alleged that the editor did not know to which state Bhadrachalam or the seven mandals of Kunavaram, VR Puram, Chintoor, Nellipaka, Veleripadu, Burgampadu and Kukunoor belonged to. "He is writing meaningless articles. The BJP demands that his statements be taken back," said Veerajulu.

Meanwhile, Yadlapati Raghunatha Babu, another state BJP leader and Tobacco Board chair-

man, said he met Naidu along with Veerajulu on June 2, 2014 to discuss that these seven mandals should become part of Andhra Pradesh before the state's bifurcation. However, he claimed, Naidu had no clue about the seven mandals and why these should be part of Andhra Pradesh.

Veerajulu said Naidu was scheduled to take oath as the Chief Minister six days from that day on June 8, 2014.

The state is witnessing accusations and counter-accusations on Polavaram project among the BJP, TDP and YSRC.

TIRUCHANOUR BRAHMOTSAVAMS



Goddess rides on Garuda Vahanam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

ON the sixth day morning on Monday as part of the ongoing annual Karthika Brahmotsavams at Tiruchanour, near here, Goddess Sri Padmavathi Devi in the unique fascinating Sakatasuravadha guise, atop Sarva Bhooopala Vahanam blessed the devotees.

Sakatasuravadha, killing the

cart form demon is one of the important episodes in Sri Krishna Leela. On the Sarva Bhooopala Vahanam, Goddess is seen as kicking the 'Sakatam' (cart wheel) with Her leg and there by implying weeding out the evil and protecting the good. Both the Jeeyar Swamijis of Tirumala, Ex-officio board member Dr C Bhaskar Reddy, JEO P Basanth Kumar, CE Ramesh Reddy, Dy EO Jhansi Rani, VGO Bal Reddy and others

were also present.

Goddess rides on Sarvabhoopala again: Goddess Sri Padmavathi Devi graced the Sarva Bhooopala Vahanam again on Monday. In view of Covid, in place of Swarna Ratham, the Goddess was seated on Sarvabhoopala Vahanam for the second time during the annual fete. Later in the night, Garuda Seva was observed in the shrine as part of the Brahmotsavams.

SC judge recuses himself in plea against Jagan

- The apex court is hearing petitions seeking action against AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for making allegations against one of the justices

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

JUSTICE U U Lalit recused from hearing a plea seeking action against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy for raising allegations against Supreme Court judge, Justice N V Ramana, here on Monday.

The plea came up before a Bench which also comprised Justices Vineet Saran and Ravindra Bhat, when Justice Lalit stated: "As a lawyer, I had represented these parties in litigation. I cannot take up this matter. Let this matter be listed at the earliest before any other judge decided by the CJI."

The court was hearing three separate petitions seeking inquiry and action against the Chief Minister for his 'scandalising' remarks against the second senior-most judge of the top court, Justice N V Ramana. The petitioners, all advo-

cates G S Mani, Pradeep Kumar Yadav and Sunil Kumar Singh and NGO Anti-Corruption Council of India Trust, have submitted that the allegations levelled by Jagan Reddy against Justice Ramana are baseless. They have also highlighted that Jagan is facing over 20 criminal cases.

One of the petitioners, G S, Mani, also sought a judicial inquiry by an internal committee headed by sitting or retired judges of the Supreme Court or any authority, including the Central Bureau of Investigation, into the allegations raised by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. Advocate Sunil Kumar Singh, in his petition, asked the top court to issue a show cause to Jagan Reddy after his government's official made public a letter written by Jagan to the Chief Justice of India, S A Bobde, on October 6 making certain allegations against Justice Ramana.

Bharat Biotech launches massive phase 3 trials of Covaxin

Continued from P1

As per clinical trial norms, each trial site has its own ethics committee which monitors whether the trial conducted at the centre is meeting ethics and the study protocol.

On Wednesday, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) vice chancellor Tariq Mansoor said he has got himself registered to be the first volunteer for the trials at the university.

According to trial protocol, the primary end-point of the late-stage trial, used to determine the efficacy of a vaccine, will be to see if the two-dose shot can prevent a patient

from developing symptoms of covid-19. The secondary end-point will be to measure how effective the vaccine is in avoiding severe symptoms of the disease in a patient, and death.

If the efficacy data is robust, it could be launched as early as February, making it the second vaccine likely to be launched in India after Serum Institute of India's Covishield. The company is spending around Rs 150 crore on phase 3 trials and another Rs 120-150 crore in setting up a new facility that will be operational by December, Prasad had said.

Nitish sworn in Bihar CM

Continued from P1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the NDA family would together for progress of Bihar. "Congratulations to Nitish Kumar on taking oath as Bihar's CM. I also congratulate all those who took oath as Ministers in Bihar Government. NDA family will work together for progress of Bihar. I assure all possible support from Centre for the welfare of Bihar," Modi tweeted.

Congratulating Nitish Kumar on being "nominated" as CM, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "I hope that instead of his desire for the chair, he will focus on the aspirations of Bihar's people, and make the NDA's promises of

19 lakh jobs, providing education opportunities, health and irrigation facilities his priority."

Chirag Paswan, whose party LJP left the NDA just ahead of the elections owing to "ideological differences" with JD(U), said he hoped Nitish Kumar remained an "NDA chief minister", in a dig at the JD(U) chief. "Congratulations to Nitish Kumar on becoming the chief minister again. I hope the government completes its term and you continue to remain an NDA chief minister," Paswan tweeted. "Once again I congratulate you on becoming chief minister and the BJP on making you one," he said.

HANDOVER OF TIDCO HOUSES

Police foil attempt to perform housewarming

TIRUPATI

POLICE on Monday foiled the bid by beneficiaries who were allotted houses, to perform 'Gruha Pravasa' (housewarming ceremony) for the houses allotted to them in Vikruthamala Housing Colony near here. The CPI backed beneficiaries who were allotted the houses two years back in Vikruthamala Housing Colony where

1800 houses were built for the urban poor, first gathered at the district CPI office here before proceeding in groups in vehicles to the housing colony, located 20 km from the city. However, the alert police who came to the CPI office stopped the beneficiaries and prevented them from going to Vikruthamala, leading to heated arguments between the beneficiaries and the police who refused to allow the CPI activities and the beneficiaries despite their strong protest. Responding to the state party call, the district CPI took up the mobilization of TIDCO (Andhra Pradesh Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation) housing project beneficiaries for performing housewarming as a direct action to build pressure on the government to allot the houses that were long back completed, to the beneficiaries.

TIRUPATI BYPOLL

TRIANGULAR CONTEST ON CARDS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE byelection for Tirupati Parliamentary constituency which is to be held in early 2021 is generating heat from now onwards. The byelection was necessitated with the sudden demise of sitting YSRC MP Balli Durga Prasada Rao in September this year. YSRC leaders are indicating that Kalyana Chakravarthy, son of Durga Prasad will be fielded from this seat.

BJP has announced that it will field a candidate along with Jana Sena and even went to the extent of saying that they will win this seat as they recently won Dubbaka Assembly election. While the doubts persist on TDP's stand, its supreme N Chandrababu Naidu announced on Monday that former MP and Union minister Panabaka Lakshmi will contest the election.

- TDP supremo announce Panabaka Lakshmi's candidature
- YSRC may field late MP's son Kalyana Chakravarthy
- BJP-Jana Sena candidate will also be in fray
- Notification is expected before year-end



Panabaka Lakshmi

It may be recalled that she contested the election in 2019 on TDP's ticket and lost to Balli Durga Prasada Rao. Naidu's dictum to the party leaders during the video conference on Monday to work for party candidate's victory has cleared the ambiguity on its stand. There was a tradition among political parties not to

field candidates when the candidatures of family members of demised people's representatives are announced.

However, in the changed political scenario, TDP has also decided to field its candidate which will ensure a triangular contest in the constituency whereas the Congress'

stand is yet to be known. Congress leader Chinta Mohan won the seat six times earlier but he has not yet revealed his stand on contesting this time. The left parties also have not made up their minds on contesting the byelection.

This reserved constituency has three segments - Tirupati, Srikalahasti and Satyavedu - in Chittoor district while the remaining four - Venkatagiri, Sullurpeta, Gudur and Sarvepalli in Nellore district. There have been speculation for the last two months that Panabaka Lakshmi may shift her loyalty to another party and former minister from TDP Parasa Rathnam has been trying to bag the ticket. The announcement of Naidu about the candidature of Panabaka has put an end to this talk for now. With the election notification expected before December, hectic political activity can be expected from now onwards.

'Vocal for local' through spirituality: Modi's new 'Atmanirbhar' pitch

Continued from P1

"Today the world is looking towards India for the similar guidance. If you look at the history of India, whenever need arose, some saintly figure emerged to guide the society, Acharya Vijay Vallabh was one such saint." Mentioning the educational institutions established by the Jain Acharya, the Prime Minister praised his efforts to make the country Aatmnirbhar in the field of education as he had set up many institutes imbued with Indian values in states such as Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. He said these institutions had produced so many industrialists, judges, doctors, and engineers who have given yeoman service to the nation.

The Prime Minister underscored the debt that the country owes to the efforts of these institutions in the field of women's education. "These institutions kept the flame of female education alive in those difficult times. The Jainacharya established many institutions for girl children and brought women to the mainstream."

The Prime Minister said the life of Acharya Vijay Vallabh ji was full of kindness, compassion and love for every living being and that with his blessings, bird Hospital and many gaushalas are running in the country today. "These are not ordinary institutions. These are the embodiment of the spirit of India and the hallmarks of India and Indian values," Modi said.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Smart speakers import to cross 7.5 lakh

“As Indian homes go more for smart technologies, voice-controlled devices like a smart speaker have an increasingly important role to play. Amazon nurtured the ecosystem well by encouraging a wide choice of apps to be developed giving users a lot of engaging content.

– Techarc founder **Faisal Kawoosa**



SEEKING FUNDS

Saudi Aramco to issue bonds amid oil slump

Saudi Arabia's oil giant Aramco announced on Monday it will issue international bonds as it seeks a cash infusion to help pay for billions of dollars in dividends the company promised shareholders before the global coronavirus pandemic sent oil prices plummeting.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	79.08	South	
Euro	92.78	African Rand	5.56
UAE Dirham	22.34	Hong Kong Dollar	11.07
Thai Baht	2.84	Japanese Yen	0.82
British Pound	102.28	New Zealand Dollar	53.86
Australian Dollar	57.07	Saudi Riyal	21.87
Canadian Dollar	59.73	Swedish Krona	9.91
Swiss Franc	85.13	Singapore Dollar	58.18

DELHI TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

MyMoneyMantra extends service

MyMoneyMantra.com (MMM), continues to cater loans to under-served Indians by spreading out its phy-gital presence in tier 3 & 4 cities. It allows to offer a choice of making offline or online loan application as per customer's convenience. In order to fuel its next phase of growth through expansion in non-metros, MyMoneyMantra plans to aggressively add new branches and will continue end-to-end fulfillment of customers' needs Phy-Gitally.Raj Khosla, founder & Managing Director, MyMoneyMantra.com said, "We have successfully delivered financial products to our customers for more than three decades and have served over 70 lakh customers till date. The Georgetown University White Paper showcases our strength as a profitable, phy-gital financial services marketplace with a distinct and robust business model. This year we have originated credit worth Rs 5,397 crore across 60 cities with 100 financial partners."

Rootcap's initiative

Rootcap Business Consultants has launched a subsidiary called The IdeaBox which has many experts & leaders from various industries. It is an Idea contest that aims to encourage, develop and support the budding entrepreneurs. Students, entrepreneurs, employees, homemakers, self-employed professionals and anyone who has a business idea and aspire to make their dream idea come alive, can participate and share their business ideas, interact with mentors, make valuable connections, receive feedback about their business plans, and even compete for awards. Participants can visit theideabox.in to submit their ideas. Contest opened for entries and ideas from the participants are welcome till November 20, 2020. A three round selection process comprises the overall event, post which the top ideas can win cash prizes, and some might even attract funding and investment.

Hocomoco's brand ambassador

Hocomoco onboarded renowned Telegu filmmaker, Tharun Bhasker Dhaassyam, as the brand ambassador. The national award winner is known for directing the critically acclaimed Telugu language romantic comedy film *Pelli Choopulu*, which was also his first full length feature film. Tharun Bhasker Dhaassyam says, "Building a home has always been a lifelong dream for most people, especially for me. I've seen my father work tirelessly towards making the dream come true. Unfortunately, it never happened, and it came down to me to understand the whole process and setup a plan. Hocomoco provides the easiest solution for it. The team has chalked out a method to the madness and simplified it for the client. It's as simple as ordering food or online shopping. The founder and the team are amazing and meticulous when it comes down to planning."

5th Fin Comm submits report

THE 15th Finance Commission on Monday submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi its report on the ratio in which tax is to be divided between the Centre and states over the next five years. The Commission has recommended a total devolution of Rs 8,55,176 crore to the states for 2020-21 which is 41 per cent of the divisible pool of taxes. The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission for period 2021-22 to 2025-26 have not been disclosed as it has not been tabled in Parliament.

WPI inflation at 8-mth peak of 1.48% in Oct

Highest level of WPI inflation since February when it was 2.26%

NEW DELHI

THE wholesale price-based inflation rose to an eight-month high of 1.48 per cent in October, as manufactured products turned costlier, with experts saying that the RBI will keep interest rates on hold in its policy review next month.

The WPI inflation was at 1.32 per cent in September and zero per cent in October last year. This is the highest level of wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation since February, when it was at 2.26 per cent. While food article prices softened in October, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices, according to the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Food inflation in October stood at 6.37 per cent, as against 8.17 per cent in the previous month. The rate of price rise in vegetables and potato remained high at 25.23 per cent and 107.70 per cent, respectively, during the month. Inflation in manufactured products category stood at 2.12 per cent in October, as against 1.61 per cent in September.

Fuel and power basket witnessed softening to (-)10.95 per cent in October. The retail inflation, based on consumer price index, was at a six-year high of 7.61 per



While food article prices softened in October, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices

cent in October, data released last week showed. ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said core inflation

spiked to 1.7 per cent in October 2020 from 1 per cent in September, and the core index has been hardening since August. "In our view, the core inflation will continue to record a steady uptick in month-on-month terms over the next few months, with the strengthening of the economic recovery, while food prices will remain dominated by the trend displayed by vegetables. The MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) is likely to stay on hold in at least December 2020, if not in February 2021 as well," Nayar said.

India Ratings and Research Chief Economist D K Pant said the increase in core inflation suggests improvement in demand conditions after lifting of COVID-19 lockdown. "However, it will

be too early to term this as a general recovery, a large part of this is due to festival related demand," Pant said. "Rising retail food inflation and declined wholesale food inflation is a nightmare for policy makers. India Ratings expects demand...to improve further, however, bigger question is whether increased demand will be sustained after festive season," Pant added. The RBI is scheduled to review policy interest rate on December 2-4. The Reserve Bank in a report on the state of economy last week had also flagged unrelenting pressure of inflation as a downside risk confronting the prospects of economic recovery.

"The foremost is the unrelenting pressure of inflation, with no signs of waning in spite of supply management measures...There is a grave risk of generalisation of price pressures, unanchoring of inflation expectations feeding into a loss of credibility in policy interventions and the eventual corrosion of the nascent growth impulses that are making their appearance," RBI had said. (PTI)

BPCL gets 3-4 bids, but Reliance skips

NEW DELHI

THE government on Monday received 'multiple' bids for buying out its stake in India's second-biggest fuel retailer BPCL but billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries as well as supermajors Saudi Aramco, BP and Total did not make a bid. TuhinKanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), which is handling the strategic sale, tweeted that the transaction advisors for the sale of government's 52.98 per cent stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) have reported receiving "multiple expressions of interest."

"The transaction will move to the second stage after scrutiny by TA," he said. TA stands for transaction advisor. "Strategic disinvestment of BPCL progresses: Now moves to the second stage after multiple expressions of interest have been received," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also tweeted. Neither of them however gave the number of bids received or the names of the bidders.

Separately, four industry officials said 3-4 bids have been put in. Reliance Industries, which was considered a potential bidder as BPCL would have added 22 per cent fuel market share to its fledgling retail business and made it the nation's number one oil refiner, did not put in an expression of interest (EoI) at the close of the deadline on Monday.

Diesel demand falls 5% in Nov after reaching pre-Covid levels

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S diesel sales fell 5 per cent in the first half of November when compared with the previous year, industry data showed on Monday, after rising for the first time in eight months in October.

Sale of diesel, the most used fuel in the country, was, however, 7 per cent higher month-on-month. Between November 1 and 15, diesel consumption was 2.86 million tonnes, down from 3.01 million tonnes in the same period a year back. It was, however, higher than the 2.65 million tonnes demand during the first half of October.

Petrol sales rose marginally to 1.03 million tonnes from 1.02 million tonnes, while cooking gas (LPG) sales for the first time this year fell by 2 per cent to 1.07 million tonnes. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) sales fell 53 per cent year-on-year to 155,000 tonnes but were 1.3 per cent higher month-on-month. The total demand for petroleum products rose 2.5 per cent in October to reach 17.77 million tonnes.

While petrol had reached pre-Covid levels in September itself, diesel consumption

had returned to normal last month. Diesel demand spurred 7.4 per cent year-on-year to 6.5 million tonnes while petrol sales were up 4.5 per cent at 2.54 million tonnes. The growth in diesel consumption was the highest in a year.

Industry sources said month-on-month diesel sales has risen in November, which is a good sign. Fuel demand had slumped by 49



per cent in April after a nationwide lockdown, imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, shut industries and took most vehicles off-road. The 69-day nationwide lockdown was followed by local and state-level restrictions.

Restrictions have eased only slowly and in phases, and localised restrictions in containment zones remain. The onset of the festive season has fuelled a rise in consumption but public transport is not back to normal levels yet as schools and educational institutions continue to remain shut in most parts of the country. (PTI)

Mutual funds add 4 lakh folios in Oct

NEW DELHI

THE mutual fund (MF) industry has added over 4 lakh investor accounts in October, taking the total tally to 9.37 crore, primarily on account of contribution from debt schemes.

Market experts said the addition of folios suggests that investors were undeterred by the market volatility. Besides, it indicates their understanding of the market risks associated with the mutual fund schemes, they added.

According to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), the number of folios with 45 fund houses rose by 4.11 lakh to 9,37,18,991 at the end of last month from 9,33,07,480 at September-end.

The sector added 7.37 lakh investors account in September, 4.25 lakh in August, 5.6 lakh in July, 5 lakh in June, 6.13 lakh in May and 6.82 lakh in April. Of the

Taking total folios tally to 9.37cr, primarily on account of contribution from debt schemes

total new folios last month, more than 2 lakh were added in debt funds.

Folios are numbers designated to individual investor accounts. An investor can have multiple folios. The number of folios under equity and equity-linked saving schemes rose by 30,000 in October to 6.39 crore. Debt schemes folios count went up by 2.23 lakh to 75.25 lakh.

Barring, long duration credit risk, all categories in debt funds witnessed growth in folios. Short duration funds added Rs 41,690 folios in October, followed by corporate bond funds (Rs 33,935), liquid funds (28,839) and banking and PSU (public sector undertaking) funds (Rs 17,075).

Maruti sells over 2 lakh cars via online channel

NEW DELHI

THE country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it has sold over two lakh cars through the online channel.

The company, which initiated its online sales platform around two years back, said the digital channel now covers nearly 1,000 dealerships across the country. "Since the introduction of this new digital channel in 2018, we have witnessed three times increase in digital enquiries and recorded sales of over two lakh units since April 2019. This digital channel has helped to generate over 21 lakh customer enquiries," Maruti Suzuki India Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said in a statement.

Citing 'Google Auto Gear Shift India 2020 Report', he said



nearly 95 per cent of new car sales in India are digitally influenced as per the customers first research online and then buy at the physical dealerships. While online experience provides the complete spectrum of information to the customers, at the last mile the customers seek assurance of the deal from their trusted dealer advisors. "Interestingly, customers who enquire through our digital channel end up purchasing a car within 10 days. This reaffirms that with a robust online to offline platform

executed by a digitally enabled salesforce, converting digital enquiries into sales becomes easier," Srivastava said.

He said the company witnessed a two-fold increase in 'Near Me' customer searches for Maruti Suzuki dealers. "Our investment to create a hyper-local platform is to help customers discover faster and connect to their nearest dealers. This initiative has seen rapid growth in recent times. In the last two years, we have integrated over 1,000 dealerships across 3,000 online touchpoints in this digital transformation journey," Srivastava added.

Maruti Suzuki India began taking online bookings in 2017. The company said as customer behaviour further shifts online, its dealership's websites are witnessing a much larger traffic flow.

Covid hits shopping mall launches

KOLKATA

LAUNCHING of shopping malls in 2020 was hit badly with only five properties beginning operations so far against a pre Covid-19 estimate of 54, which were likely to be unveiled across the country this year, a global property consultant said on Monday. Severely impacted by the pandemic, just five malls with 2.75 million square feet of space, came up and considering the progress in construction work, 14 new malls spanning 5.9 mn sq. ft. area are likely to be completed by 2021-end.

NBCC bags orders worth ₹1,165 cr in October

NEW DELHI

STATE-run construction major NBCC (India) Ltd said that it had bagged orders worth Rs 1,165.52 crore in October.

"This is to inform that NBCC (India) Limited has secured a total business of Rs 1,165.52 crore in October 2020," the company said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

The company had last week reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 45.61 crore for the July-September quarter

Regarding the Amrapali case, the construction PSU last week said that it had awarded the work of 22 projects of Amrapali (residential) with estimated cost of Rs 7,309.71 crore, out of which two projects worth Rs 7.50 crore were completed and handed over. Till now, 695 flats have been completed and handed over by the NBCC. The company had last week reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 45.61 crore for the July-September quarter, against a net loss of Rs 90.91 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

Fiscal impact of stimulus 3.0 unclear

But it will be supportive for growth over the coming quarters: Fitch

India's third tranche of stimulus measures should support economic rebound over the coming quarters but the actual fiscal impact is difficult to ascertain, Fitch Solutions said on Monday.

The government on November 12 announced another stimulus package, called Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 3.0, totaling Rs 2.65 lakh crore. The package included a boost to formal employment, the Production Linked (PLI) Scheme, an increase in the fertiliser subsidy and the rural employment programme, MGN-REGA. Motilal Oswal in a separate report said its calculations suggest the actual fiscal outgo in FY2021 could be a maximum of Rs 1.1 lakh crore (0.5 per cent of GDP).

This, along with the previous announcements, total fiscal package amount to Rs 17.7 lakh crore (8.7 per cent of GDP). "However, our calculations suggest the ac-



tual fiscal outgo in FY21 could be a maximum of Rs 4.7 lakh crore (2.3 per cent of GDP)," it said.

In a report, Fitch Solutions said India's fiscal deficit is likely to be 7.8 per cent of the GDP in the Fiscal Year '21 (April 2020 to March 2021). "While many of (Stimulus 3.0) scheme should be supportive to India's economic rebound over the coming quar-

ters, the actual impact on public finances is difficult to ascertain," Fitch said.

The PLI scheme, for instance, spans across a five-year period, and their fiscal impact will likely only be seen from FY2021-22 onward, it said. "Estimating using the outright fiscal outlays from this announcement, 'Stimulus 3.0' appears to suggest additional

expenditure of Rs 1 lakh crore (0.44 per cent of FY2019/20 GDP)," it said.

Moreover, the announcement did not outline any additional borrowing to finance these additional spending, which suggests a reallocation of FY2020/21 budget expenditure plans instead, Fitch added. Exactly a month after the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0' package – which included announcements regarding consumption and investment – was announced on October 12, the central government came out with its third round of stimulus package.

Stimulus 3.0 package included Rs 1.6 lakh crore toward the PLI Scheme and the remaining Rs 1.2 lakh crore toward the other 11 announcements such as the extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 1.0) up to March 31, 2021, the launch of ECLGS 2.0 for the 26

stressed sectors, income tax relief for developers and home buyers, and budget outlay for R&D toward the Covid-19 vaccine.

Additionally, the central government also increased the budget outlay for urban housing (under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – PMAY), fertilizer subsidy, and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Of this Rs 1.2 lakh crore, 54.6 per cent or Rs 65,000 crore is additional allocation toward fertilizer subsidy, which takes the total FY21 allocation to Rs 1.4 lakh crore, Motilal Oswal said.

"This is surprising as actual data suggests spending of only Rs 55,400 crore in 1H FY21, implying the government intends to spend Rs 80,900 crore more in 2H FY21. Thereby, expect massive growth of 220 per cent year-on-year in 2H FY21 over the subsidy provided in 2H FY20."

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR: JAISHANKAR

Centre of Excellence in Business and Diplomacy at ISB proposed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar said that the choices that we make today have deeper strategic implications. "In this context Atmanirbhar Bharat is critical perspective for India."

Delivering the inaugural keynote address at the third edition of Deccan Dialogue, organised by Indian School of Business (ISB) in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), on the theme of 'Crisis and Cooperation: Imperative in the times of Pandemic', on Tuesday.

The ISB has organised the third edition of Deccan Dialogue to deliberate bringing in all stakeholders keep pace with the changes and engage in a policy dialogue where international, national, and local stakeholders can come together to jointly address and respond to the crisis. It was organised in virtual mode.

The pandemic has shown extraordinary social discipline and explore its inherent capabilities".

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, and Civil Aviation said: "Atmanirbhar



Bharat is not an inward-looking trade policy but a thought after a strategy that would enable and lead us towards a stronger self-reliant India. Technology will play an important role in Atmanirbhar Bharat and Covid-19 came when technology was receiving a quantum boost. We are now amplifying the use of technology due to Covid-19. "Talking about the aviation sector, the Minister emphasised that there are massive opportunities for investment in the aviation sector and we will soon be able to reposition our-self as a global economic player with natural advantages in multiple sectors".

Ambassador Rahul Chhabra,

Secretary, Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, talking about health security he said: "No body is safe until all of us are safe. Health Security was not a main table agenda in international discussions, but post the pandemic, it has become the top agenda now. India supplied critical medicines to the world at the need of the hour, half of it in a non-commercial basis and was possible only global cooperation and facilitation".

Sunil Kant Munjal, Member, Executive Board, ISB and Chairman,

Hero Enterprise, in his address said: "ISB, over the years, could institutionalise and create research driven institutions within the school focusing on infrastructure, manu-

Dr S Jaishankar, delivering the inaugural keynote address said: "Choices today have more deeper strategic implications and in this context Atmanirbhar Bharat is critical perspective for India. We must build capabilities to effectively realise the fruits of globalisation and the current openness is not giving the full picture. The Indian diaspora play an important role in connecting the world and today's India will not lead any Indian abroad into distress.

ing, healthcare and public policy. ISB will be delighted to create a separate center of excellence on 'Business and Diplomacy' in partnership with MEA".

Professor Rajendra Srivastava, Dean, Indian School of Business, in his address said: "India has the capacity to become the caregiver of the world. Human capital with technology, collaboration with diaspora are important elements to successful globalisation".

Ambassador of Israel to India, Ron Malka, serving and retired secretaries of health and family welfare, external affairs, high commissioners of India; Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM, Deepak Bagla, Managing Director and CEO, Invest India; Dr Sangita Reddy, President, FICCI and Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd; Dr Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Limited from the industry; professors from ISB, IITH, Max Institute of Healthcare Management, from academia; Besides around 1,500 delegates representing industry, government and the academia, including students, virtually attended and participated in the third edition of Deccan Dialogue.

Harish trains guns at BJP, Congress

Finance Minister says that the Congress party did nothing even after being in power and the BJP can't do anything even after winning



HANS NEWS SERVICE
PATANCHERU

FINANCE Minister T Harish Rao on Monday lashed out against the BJP stating that it was indulging in cheap politics only for votes.

The Minister was speaking in an election meeting of the party for the ensuing GHMC elections in Patancheru on Monday. Harish Rao said that the BJP once had principles but now it has turned into a party which makes noise with lies. The BJP is trying to gain politically on the foundation of lies and Gobbles campaign. He asked the party leaders to counter the BJP leaders for their lies. He found fault with the BJP leaders promising a free corona vaccine to the people of Bihar. "Are the BJP leaders not in favour of giving corona vaccine to people of Telangana," asked Rao.

Rao alleged that the Congress and the BJP governments did nothing for Patancheru during the last 70 years. The residents of Patancheru could not get at least drinking water during the BJP rule, said Rao adding the TRS government provided water to the

households with Rs 251 crore. "There was no need for the inverters, converters and generators after the TRS came into power. The government ensured people do not spend money on inverters by providing uninterrupted power," said Rao.

The TRS leader said that hundreds of youth were getting employment with the coming up of Industrial Park at Patancheru, Medical Devices Park at Sultanpur, IT Park at Osmannagar, LED Park in Shivanagar. During the regime of YS (YS Rajasekhara Reddy) Chandrababu (N Chandrababu Naidu) the lands of Patancheru were sold away and not even a single market was started, alleged Harish Rao adding TRS government brought market in 180 acres of land with an expenditure of Rs 10 crore.

Harish Rao alleged that the Congress party did nothing even after being in power and the BJP can't do anything even after winning. The Congress and BJP leaders were limited to their homes during the corona pandemic whereas the TRS leaders cared for the people affected with corona.

SPIRITUAL GLOW



Scores of devotees participated in deepotsavam on the occasion of first Monday of Karthika Masam at Satyasai Nigamam.

Photo : Adula Krishna

Officials told to make elaborate arrangements for Pushkaralu

HYDERABAD

ENDOWMENTS Minister Alloia Indrakaran Reddy on Monday has directed the officials to make elaborate arrangements for the ensuring Tungabhadra Pushkaralu from November 20 to December 1. The Minister conducted a meeting with the Endowments officials on the arrangements for Pushkaralu at Aranya Bhavan on Monday. Inquiring about the arrangements for Pushkaralu, the Minister said that the government has re-

leased Rs 2.5 crore for the development works. The Minister also said that the government is taking all steps to ensure that people do not face inconvenience while they come for Pushkaralu. He asked the officials to have mesh at the bathing ghats and also make available swimmers, boats to rescue people in case of untoward incidents. He urged the devotees to support the government by following the Covid-19 guidelines at the Pushkar Ghats while performing rituals.

SEC caps poll spending at ₹5 lakh

GHMC poll contestants urged to ensure transparency in poll expenditure

- The officials told to act against distribution of liquor, cash or kind during the elections
- Ads in the newspapers to be put on the radar
- Video surveillance teams to be deployed in every circle
- A watch to be kept on the woman self-help groups

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi on Monday asked the contestants in the ensuing Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections to have transparency in the poll expenditure. The Commissioner had a meeting with the Election Expenditure Observers at the office of the SEC. He said that the election expenditure should be as per GHMC Act, 1955, rule 617 B. The details should be in a



transparent manner. The officials should ensure there is no distribution of liquor, cash or kind during the elections.

The SEC asked the officials to make sure the candidates should not spend more than Rs 5 lakh as per the rules. The election expenditure is of two types, one is related to expenditure on permitted public meetings, posters, party rallies, banners. The second is the expenditure which is not allowed as per rule like distribution of money, liquor and other gifts. Apart from this, the candidates are spending a lot of money in the form of paid news in the daily newspa-

pers. These will also come under the election expenditure, said Parthasarathi, asking the officials to keep a watch on the advertisements given in the name of candidates by others. The SEC said that there will be expenditure observers along with the video surveillance teams in every circle. There will be flying squads, static surveillance teams, and expenditure sensitive units in all the circles. Similarly, there will be accounting teams in all the circles. There will also be audit officers and cooperative deputy registrars. The commissioner asked the officials to get the social media ac-

count details of the candidates contesting in the elections. The Media Coordination Monitoring Committee (MCMC) would finalise the rates as per the newspaper tariff rates including poster, banners, electronic media etc.

The SEC wanted the officials to ensure the bank staff to have identity cards while they deposit money into the ATMs and keep a watch on the woman self help groups as the candidates may distribute money to these group women. The candidates should submit the details of expenditure at regular intervals.

UGC brings new changes in UG political science stream

VRC PHANIHAN
HYDERABAD

IN a fist of its kind the University Grants Commission's (UGC) initiated new changes that go a long way in the form of seismic changes in the election management and legislative business.

Three years from now, students of undergraduate political science are all set to done new roles as political secretaries and legislative clerks for the MPs, MLAs, MLCs. Besides, they can also work as the Research and Analysis Wings (RAWs) for the political parties.

Reason being, the UGC has unleashed a set up electives in the political science course bring changes in the syllabus, that are all set to open doors to the graduates of political science to choose new careers.

According to the UGC's Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) for political science subject has introduced to more electives. The electives would equip the graduate political science students to work as political secretaries or legislative clerks for the MPs, MLAs, MLCs and similar back-end

- New LOCF opens up doors to take up jobs of political and legislative clerks
- Graduates in political science can serve offices of MPs, MLAs, MLCs

research offices of the political parties.

As per the latest UGC LOCF, the graduate political science students can select an elective that allows them to study how to file election nominations and the technical issues, election campaign and media management and background research to help the people's representatives in legislative debates and so on.

The electives offered as part of the Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) includes, 'Managing Elections and Election Campaign' (MEEC) and 'Legislative Business, Research in Legislation and Legislative Support' (LB&RLS).

The MEEC elective is intended to given an exposure to the students to a wide range of conceptual and



practical issues. This includes electoral democracy, changing nature of elections against the backdrop of the social media and new technologies that the political parties are using in the elections.

At the end of the course, the students are expected to gain theoretical and practical aspects of filing election nominations and the technical issues involved in it. Well versed with to explain the election code of conduct including the ethics to be maintained in expenditure and elections campaign.

Besides, the role of new media and technology involved in election campaign and to gain required skills for media management during the elections.

The module exposes the students to the techniques of man and material resources to manage the elec-

tions. And, the course is to familiarise the students with the legislative activities in India both in the States and the Centre and to train them in skills of back-end support to the legislative business. As part of the same, the students will study to develop proper understanding of the process, procedure and working of the parliament and State legislature and the role of the legislators and the parliamentarians.

That apart, media monitoring, news analysis, and use them in the legislative and policy-making activities. The legislative support to the parliamentarians includes drafting and presentation of bills, stages before becoming a law, providing research inputs to the MPs, MLAs, MLCs to make them effectively contribute to the parliamentary debates and legislative businesses.

To assist the people's representatives on the issues related to the stages of legislative process, legislature control and delegation of powers to the executive, supervising the works from the constituency development funds etc.

ALLOTMENT OF SYMBOLS

TRS wants SEC to tread a cautious path while allotting symbols for GHMC polls



TRS leaders led by Telangana Planning Board vice chairman B Vinod Kumar submitted a memorandum to State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi in Hyderabad on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH identical symbols affecting the chances of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi in successive elections, the ruling party leaders on Monday urged the State Election Commission to be cautious while allotting symbols and also keep an eye on the propaganda in social media. A delegation of TRS leaders led by Telangana Planning Board vice chairman B Vinod Kumar met the State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi on Monday. They urged the commissioner to be cautious with the allotment of symbols in the ensuing GHMC

elections. Vinod Kumar pointed out that the voters are getting confused as there are symbols identical to the car symbol of TRS and this is resulting in a loss to the party. Earlier, during the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, the party candidates had to lose the elections because of the identical symbols like auto, truck, and road roller. The Election Commission had removed the symbols from the list after a representation from the party, said Vinod. He also raised the 'roller pin' symbol, which had affected the chances of the party in the recent Dubbaka bypoll. Keeping all these in mind the TRS leader urged the SEC to re-

move the identical symbols to that of the car symbol of TRS from the list of common symbols.

The TRS leaders also wanted the SEC to keep a vigil on the social media propaganda. He said that the law and order situation in the city was best during the last six years. "People from different parts of the country are living here peacefully. Few forces are trying to create differences between the communities through social media. There is a need to keep an eye on such miscreants," said Vinod. Party leaders C Laxma Reddy, M Sreenivas Reddy and Bharat were also present.

Nadal, Thiem ease to opening wins

LONDON

WORLD number two Rafael Nadal advanced into the second round of the ATP Finals by dispatching Russia's Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 18 minutes.

Earlier, Dominic Thiem made sure this year's ATP Finals didn't begin the same way last year's ended by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the opening singles match of the tournament inside a largely empty O2 Arena.

"It's important to start well, of course, for the confidence, and winning straight sets helps," said Nadal on Sunday as per Xinhua news agency. "I played solid with my serve. I didn't suffer much, and that helps to play more relaxed on the returns," he added.

The first match of Group London 2020 was played between last year's runner-up Dominic Thiem and winner Stefanos Tsitsipas. Austrian third seed Thiem avenged that defeat by beating the Greek 7-6 (7-5), 4-6 and 6-3.

Tsitsipas led 5-3 in the tie-break of the first set but then lost four points in a row to put himself at a disadvantage.

"That was the silliest thing that ever happened to me," Tsitsipas said of his play while leading 5-3. "I had a ball over the net, and I decided to play forehand instead of a smash. I don't know what kind of decision that was, but it

was not sure enough. It didn't take time. Just rushed."

Nadal will play against newly-crowned US Open champion Thiem in his second group match on Tuesday.

"I'm going to try to be ready for it," said Nadal "It's going to be a big challenge, but I really hope the victory of today could help me for that match."

This is the 12th and last year that the ATP Finals is played at the O2 Arena before mov-

ing to Turin, Italy, next year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic there are no fans inside the 20,000-capacity venue this time — meaning the normally raucous atmosphere has been replaced by an eerie silence interrupted only by muted applause from the players' boxes between points.

There are also no line judges, as the tournament is using electronic line calling for the first time.

The system means players can no longer challenge whether a ball was in or out as those calls get made auto-

matically. However, they can request a video review for other disputed situations, such as double bounces.

"The electric line call, I like it a lot," Thiem said. "Because, well, there are no wrong decisions anymore. I mean, if the electric system calls it out, it's out."

Before the opening match, Novak Djokovic was presented with a trophy on court for finishing the year with the No. 1 ranking for a record-equaling sixth time.

On Monday, Djokovic will face debutant Diego Schwartzman of Argentina before Daniil Medvedev takes on 2018 champion Alexander Zverev. (IANS/PTI)



India innovate to counter bounce, pace on Aus wickets after UAE trip

SYDNEY

THE Indian cricket team is using innovative ways to counter the extra bounce and pace they are expected to face on Australian surfaces over the next two months.

In a video posted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday, spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is seen hitting a tennis ball with a tennis racquet at batsman KL Rahul in the nets.

The top-order batsman, who led Kings XI Punjab and was the highest run-getter at the just-concluded Indian Premier League (IPL), is seen playing the pull shots to deliveries directed at his body and evading or guiding those that are slightly outside the off-stump. Ashwin ensured that the ball did not bounce before reaching Rahul.

"How is that for innovation?" Ravichandran Ashwin grabs tennis ball racquet while KL Rahul

faces volleys with his cricket bat and ball," BCCI tweeted along with a 39-second video.

Extra bounce and pace are going to be a challenge for the Indian batters in the forthcoming series after a 53-day long IPL season this month on slower wickets of the United Arab Emirates.

Practicing in the nets with tennis ball on Australian tour has been done previously by sub-continental teams to counter the bounce and pace Down Under.

However, with the players coming to Australia straight from the UAE and not getting enough practice games on Australian wickets ahead of the limited-overs series that begins on November 27 due to strict quarantine rules, net sessions like these assume greater significance.

India play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Test matches during the 69-day all-format tour of Australia. (IANS)

Dustin Johnson wins Augusta Masters

AUGUSTA

WORLD number one Dustin Johnson won the Augusta Masters by five strokes as he finished with a record-breaking low score of 20 under par.

Johnson shot a final-round 68 to hold off Cameron Smith of Australia

and South Korea's Sungjae Im on Sunday. They both shot 69 to tie for second on 15-under, however in the end, had no answer to Johnson, who played the final 13 holes bogey-free. Justin Thomas

was fourth at 276, with Rory McIlroy and Dylan Frittelli tying for fifth. Defending champion Tiger Woods carded a 10 on the par-three 12th but recovered with five birdies to finish one under. (IANS)

Prajnesh loses ATP Challenger final

CARY (US)

INDIAN tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran ended as runner's up in the men's singles event of the Atlantic Tire Championships after suffering a hard-fought defeat against America's Denis Kudla in the summit clash of the ATP Challenger event.

Gunneswaran lost 6-3, 3-6, 0-6 to Kudla in the final of the \$52,080 Challenger tennis tournament

played on Sunday.

The fourth-seeded Indian started off the match in emphatic fashion, winning the first set. However, the second-seeded American came back strongly in the next two sets and eventually won the match to take home the title.

Gunneswaran had entered the finals after getting a walkover against Denmark's marathon man Mikael Torpegaard on Saturday. (IANS)

NEW DELHI

THE Covid-19 pandemic has affected lives of people irrespective of their professions, economic, social or religious status. Be it a government professional, an engineer, a businessman - the livelihood of each and every individual has been affected to a certain extent.

Cricket is also one such sport which has not stayed unaffected as it had to halt following the outbreak of novel coronavirus in March. While financially strong cricket

playing countries like England, India, Australia have started cricketing activities and are making their way towards the new normal, associate nations such as the Netherlands, Afghanistan, Namibia, Nepal and others are still trying to come out of the pandemic in order to organise tournaments and look after their cricketers.

A recent tweet by Netherlands cricketer Paul van Meekeren has given an insight on how the players of the second-tier cricket nations are going about their lives amid the pandemic which has claimed more

than a billion lives so far across the world. The 27-year-old bowler, who last played against Zimbabwe in June 2019, revealed that he is working as a food delivery guy to make his ends meet during the lockdown.

ESPNcricinfo, in a tweet, mentioned that 2020 T20 World Cup would have ended on Sunday at the MCG in Australia if the situation were normal and there was no outbreak of novel coronavirus.

Retweeting the post, Meekeren expressed his sadness on not playing the tournament and revealed that he has to in-

stead deliver food to get through the winters.

"Should've been playing cricket today now I'm delivering Uber eats to get through the winter months!! Funny how things change hahaha keep smiling people (sic)," said Meekeren.

The country last went into a four-week partial lockdown from October 14.

Meekeren has so far played five ODIs and 41 T20Is for the Netherlands in which he has picked up four and 47 wickets respectively. (IANS)

Italy back in contention; England out

ROME

THREE years after an embarrassing failure to qualify for the World Cup, Italy is back in contention with the best in Europe. England, meanwhile, is already out of contention for the Nations League finals with one round of matches still to play.

An Italy squad badly hit by the coronavirus still managed to beat Poland 2-0 on Sunday, putting the Azzurri in control of their group, while England was beaten 2-0 by top-ranked Belgium. Another win at Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday will see Italy hosting the four-team finals in October -- just a few months after hosting the opening game of the European Championship in Rome.

"It's our culture. Italians give their best during difficult moments and become more united. It's what I asked of these guys before the game and they were extraordinary," said assistant coach Alberico Evani, who has been standing in

for head coach Roberto Mancini on the touchline. Mancini is isolating at home with the coronavirus, as is striker Ciro Immobile, the winner of the European Golden Shoe last season.

In all, more than 20 Italy players were unavailable due to the virus and injury. Jorginho converted a penalty for Italy midway through the first half after Andrea Belotti was brought down inside the area. Domenico Berardi added another goal late in the second half after collecting a pass from Lorenzo Insigne.

"The more days went on, the more players kept leaving the camp, but we said to ourselves that we had to be even more united through these obstacles," Belotti said. Italy leads Group 1 in League A with nine points. The Netherlands is next with eight points after beating Bosnia 3-1. Poland is still in contention with seven points, while Bosnia trails with two.

Belgium nears finals

Dries Mertens scored a superb free kick as Belgium ended England's hopes of reaching the finals. Belgium took the lead 10 minutes in when Romelu Lukaku set up Youri Tielemans for a deflected shot.

Mertens made it 2-0 in the 24th by expertly curling his kick over the English wall -- which mostly failed to jump -- after Kevin De Bruyne was fouled. Belgium leads Group 2 in League A with 12 points. Denmark is next with 10 following a 2-1 win over Iceland. England has seven and Iceland none. Belgium needs only a draw at home with Denmark on Wednesday to reach the finals.

De Boer finally wins

Frank de Boer finally has his first win as Netherlands coach after Georginio Wijnaldum scored a swift brace to lead his team to a 3-1 victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Wijnaldum, captain in the absence of his injured Liverpool teammate Virgil van Dijk, tapped in from close range in the sixth and 14th minutes to set up the win in the empty Johan Cruyff Arena.

Wijnaldum has now scored seven of his country's last 12 goals. Memphis Depay got the Netherlands' third goal. The victory eases pressure on De Boer, who became the first Netherlands coach not to register a win in his first four matches in charge when his team drew 1-1 with Spain on Wednesday, following a defeat and two more draws since taking over from Ronald Koeman. (IANS)



KAPIL KAVURI HUB

EARN EXTRA SFT*

LIFE LONG RETURNS

SAFE

AFFORDABLE

NO MAINTENANCE

upto
9% +
returns

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

High yield monthly income + Long term wealth asset
The legendary opportunity is here

Limited units left, grab the advantage today

+91 95337 76694

www.kapilkavurihub.com
sales@kapilproperties.com