

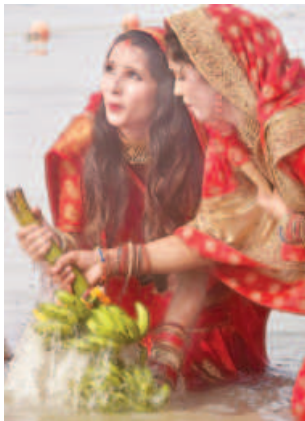
WINDOWS

BIZZ BUZZ
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RBI TO RAISE PROMOTERS' HOLDING BAR

AN INTERNAL working group set up by the RBI has proposed to raise the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current 15 per cent to 26 per cent in 15 years. The group has also recommended that large corporate or industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after amendments to the Banking Regulation Act and strengthening of the supervisory mechanism for conglomerates including consolidated supervision. **P6**

SCAN ME



Devotees offer prayers to the Sun on the bank of River Ganga on the occasion of 'Chhath Puja' in Kolkata on Friday

K'taka to launch govt-run barber shops for Dalits

BENGALURU: The Karnataka state social welfare department proposed to start government-run barber shops in villages where Dalits are shunned from using common salon. The government did not consider the proposal then, but now it is raising concern to take a call. This recommendation by the department comes amid two more incidents of caste discrimination in the state. The department recommended this initiative to fight caste biases across the state. In the recent past, many such cases have surfaced where Dalits and OBCs are denied services at barber shops and in some cases upper caste members boycott the salon if the barber belongs to the Dalit community.

Indian-origin student wins Commonwealth Essay contest 2020

LONDON: Aditya Choudhury, a 14-year-old student from Singapore and 16-year-old Ananya Mukerji from India were on Friday declared the senior winner and runner-up of the 2020 Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, the world's oldest such contest launched in 1883. The results were declared during a virtual awards ceremony hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall.



PM REVIEWS SECURITY AFTER J&K ENCOUNTER

Reports say Jaish planning 'something big' on 26/11 anniversary

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a review meeting with top security brass in the wake of the killing of four JeM terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that security forces have thwarted extremists' efforts to wreak "major havoc and destruction".

Governments sources said that the terrorists were planning "something big" on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. In his tweets following the meeting, Modi said, "Neutralising



presence of large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that

of 4 terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed and the

their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted." Hailing the security forces, he said they have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism. "Thanks to their alertness, they have defeated a nefarious plot to target grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and

Kashmir," the Prime Minister added.

In the review meeting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval, foreign secretary and top intelligence officials were present as Modi took stock of the situation.

Four suspected Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists were killed, and two policemen injured in a gunbattle in Nagrota on Thursday after a truck carrying newly infiltrated militants was intercepted, police had said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh, had said after the encounter that the terrorists had come to execute a "big plan" which has now been foiled.

CORONA SCARE AGAIN

Gujarat imposes night curfew in 3 more cities

CURBS LIKELY IN 5 MP CITIES

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

TO stem the Covid-19 spread in the state, the Gujarat government on Friday announced that night curfew - from 9 pm to 7 am - will be in force in Rajkot, Vadodara and Surat every day. The decision comes a day after the government had announced a "complete curfew" in Ahmedabad city from Friday night till Monday morning allowing opening of milk and medical shops only.

Following suit, the Madhya Pradesh government also announced that it will impose night curfew - from 10 pm to 6 am - in five cities, including Bhopal, Indore, Ratlam, Vidisham and Gwalior to curb the rise of Covid-19



People visit a market after authorities announced a 60-hour curfew due to rise in COVID-19 cases in Ahmedabad on Friday

cases. In other news, Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij was on Friday administered a trial dose of potential coronavirus vaccine Covaxin in Ambala.

The human trial of Covaxin had begun at Rohtak's Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in July.

Meanwhile, India's Covid-19 caseload surpassed the 90-lakh mark on Friday with 45,882 new cases, while the recoveries surged to 84.28 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 93.6 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

Delhi records coldest November since 2006

NEW DELHI

THE national capital recorded a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, the lowest minimum temperature in November in at least 14 years, according to India Meteorological Department data. The city also witnessed cold wave conditions, as the minimum temperature was less than 10 degrees Celsius and five notches below normal, according to Mahesh Palawat, an expert at Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency.

On November 29, 2006, the minimum temperature had dropped to 7.3 degrees Celsius, said officials. According to IMD scientists, the minimum temperature does not usually drop below 10 degrees Celsius in November. However, during the last week of November in 2017, the minimum temperature had dipped to 7.6 degrees Celsius. In November 2019, the lowest temperature was 11.4 degrees Celsius and in November 2018, it was 10.5 degrees Celsius.

"It's unusual for the minimum temperature to drop to single digits in mid-November. Winter is setting in early this year. The sharp drop in night temperature is mainly because of a combination of cold winds blowing from the snow-clad Western Himalayan region as well as largely clear skies in Delhi. When there is no cloud cover, the heat trapped in the ground dissipates fast, resulting in lower temperatures," said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre.



He added that snowfall in the Himalayas is an annual phenomenon, which impacts the temperature in all of northwest India, but local factors such as the absence of a cloud cover play an important role. "The minimum temperature is likely to remain

around 7-8 degrees Celsius over the next two days," said Srivastava.

For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal for two consecutive days.

Delhi AQI spikes to 309

NEW DELHI

DELHI'S air quality again deteriorated from poor to very poor category on Friday as the day progressed.

The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) soared from 273 in the morning and stood at 309 in the noon, as per the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR).

According to Central Pollution Control Board data, the AQI was at 325 in Anand Vihar, 328 in Ashok Vihar, 315 in Old Delhi's popular marketplace Chandni Chowk, 335 in Dwarka Sector 8 and 302 in RK Puram, all falling under the 'very poor' category.

Other places such as Mathura Road, Indira Gandhi International

Airport (Terminal 3), Dilshad Garden, Lodhi Road and Delhi University (North Campus) recorded 'poor' air, with the AQI values clocking at 235, 259, 267, 205 and 219, respectively.

Officials from Ministry of Earth Sciences stated that Delhi's overall AQI is expected to marginally improve on Saturday and Sunday as a result of "relatively better ventilation conditions" due to accelerated local surface winds. However, they also forecast the air quality to deteriorate on November 23. The ministry also estimated the stubble burning fire share in city's air at 15 per cent as the stubble burning incidents reduced marginally from previous day and its count estimated to be around 495.

Doctors advise Sonia to briefly move away from Delhi

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS president Sonia Gandhi has been advised to shift out of Delhi for a few days to avoid the heavy pollution in the national capital in view of her chronic chest infection, party sources said on Friday. Gandhi may shift to Goa for a few days, they added. The sources said she



was likely to be accompanied by either Rahul Gandhi or Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Sonia Gandhi has

been under heavy medication pursuant to her discharge from hospital in August, and doctors are concerned about her consistent chest infection, which has not gone on account of Delhi's pollution, the sources said.

The air pollution in Delhi has aggravated her asthma and her chest condition, and she has been advised by doctors to briefly shift out

from here, they said. She is going at a time when demands for introspection over the Bihar election loss are being raised by a section of party leaders, including some of those who had written a letter to her seeking an organisational overhaul.

Sonia Gandhi was admitted to the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi on July 30 evening.

IT'S GALLI VS DELHI

KTR reminds how Gali party (TRS) which stood by Hyderabadis
HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WHAT has the Delhi party done for Hyderabad or Telangana state? It could not come to the rescue of the people even when it faced severe floods while it was the Galli party (TRS) and its leaders who were among the people during floods and corona pandemic. This is what the door campaign of TRS is going to be. Addressing the party leaders and activists after releasing the progress report, 'Pragathi Nivedana' on Friday, party working president K T Rama Rao said the progress report gives detailed explanation with facts and figures on what the pink party has done for the city in the last six years and dared the BJP to explain what they had done for the state. When corona cases were on the rise in the city, the leaders confined themselves to their homes but it was TRS leaders and workers who went into the containment zones extending necessary help and supplied milk, ration and cash assistance.

Continued on Page 5



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurates Tungabhadra Pushkaralu in Kurnool town on Friday

AP CM Jagan inaugurates 'Tungabhadra Pushkaralu'

KURNOOL

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the 12-day Tungabhadra Pushkaralu in Kurnool district on Friday.

Reddy landed at 12.10 pm by a special flight at the Orvakal airport and headed towards Sankal Bagh Pushkar Ghat in Kurnool for the inaugural 'puja' (prayer) of Tungabhadra Pushkaralu (pilgrimage), said an official.

He was scheduled to inaugurate the 'Pushkaralu' at 1.21 pm, but arrived a few minutes later. According to pundits, post 1.21 p.m. on Friday, aus-

picious time will start in the Pushkaralu, which will last till December 1. Tungabhadra Pushkaralu is held once in every 12 years.

This year the riverfront religious confluence is being held amid the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic.

The state government arranged 23 ghats in the district where the river flows. However, 'pushkara baths' (spiritual bathing) is not allowed, which generally is an integral part of any 'pushkaralu'. Likewise, in view of the prevailing pandemic, the government is allowing certain rituals only after obtaining e-

tickets. Besides Andhra Pradesh, a few Telangana politicians, including Allola Indrakaran Reddy are also conducting prayers in Jogulamba Gadwal district on the banks of the river in Telangana as well, commemorating the 'pushkaralu'.

Devotees and a few saints took the holy bath in the Telangana side of the river, which flows between the two Telugu states until the vicinity of the Kurnool town.

Several devotees from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are expected to participate in the 'pushkaralu'.

Biden rules out national shutdown for Covid

WASHINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden ruled out a nationwide shutdown to fight COVID-19 but insisted on a national mask mandate as part of the efforts to prevent the spread of the deadly virus which has so far taken the lives of 2,50,000 Americans.

No national shutdown because every region, area and community can be different. And so

there is no circumstance which I can see that would require a total national shutdown.

I think that would be counterproductive, but there are constraints in which the degree to which businesses can be open, he told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware, after a meeting with a bipartisan group of governors.

Biden said he would follow the science. "I am not going to shut down the economy period. I am going to shut down

Insists on mask mandate to combat virus



the virus," he asserted.

"For example, it is one thing to say that you can have in a state that - where the infection rate is not as high, you can have a gymnasium open.

It is another thing to say it can be only open four hours a day with X number of people.

"The church I go to, my Catholic Church they do not allow more than 40 per cent of people to come into the church. Those are rational decisions.

It is not shutting

down everything; it is calibrating based on what the threat is," he explained.

Biden said he discussed the implementation of a national mask mandate in the meeting with the Governors.

Ten Governors, Democrat and Republican, have imposed masking requirements and recognised the need for universal masking. North, South, East and West. It is not a political statement. It is a patriotic duty, he said.

6 kids among 14 killed in UP road mishap

PRATAPGARH: Fourteen people, including six children, died in a tragic road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh after their car rammed a truck on the highway late on Thursday. All the occupants of the SUV died in the crash and several others have been injured. The accident occurred around 11.45pm on Thursday on the Prayagraj-Lucknow highway near Deshraj Inara village. Pratapgarh Superintendent of Police (SP) Anurag Arya said the truck had been parked at the side of the highway due to a punctured tyre when the SUV rammed it from behind, said. cial said.

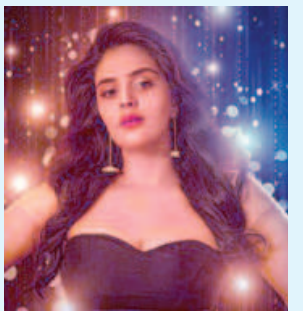
Womenia

TWEET PATROL



**SREEMUKHI
@MUKHISREE**

Ending up the 1st Season from Oh Womaniya with the Beautiful & Talented Lady "Mrs. @anusuyakhasba"
Here's the full Episode of "Oh Womaniya"
#OhWomaniya #AnasuyaBharadwaj #Sreemukhi
#EveryFriday #Talkshow #AllaboutWoman #Youtube



Every millennial's Go-To fashion choice

With a vision to create relatability between natural fabrics, comfortable clothing and the bohemian soul, Sagrika Grover launched her brand Essgee at the young age of 21



Sagrika Grover

TEJAL SINHA

Classic pieces can be elevated but simple difference in their cut and in their fabrications, and it's for these reasons that you will be obsessed with pieces from Essgee's collections. On top of that, all the clothing pieces are made using natural fabrics, so not only are they soft, they have an evergreen style that is made to luxury standards and can be worn during festive season.

Coming from a family of garment exporters, Sagrika grew up in factories and production fields-being drawn to textiles and apparel since childhood. Her mother being a textile designer piqued her interest and played a crucial role leading her towards this industry as well. Realizing her love for bohemian wear, she noticed that resort wear was termed as casual attire in the market; seeking to change the preconceived notion, Sagrika experimented with luxury fabrics such as linen, silks, cottons, thereafter developing a clothing line breaking the notion.

Sagrika shares, "Essgee is a brand envisioning a luxury bohemian aesthetic. It's a fresh take on resort wear which is not just limited to be worn on vacations but can be a part of your daily lifestyle as well. Coming from a family of garment exporters, I grew up in factories and production fields-being drawn to textiles and apparel since childhood. My mother being a textile designer piqued



Kara Pant and Tunic

my interest and played a crucial role leading me towards this industry as well.

After studying fashion from fashion Institute of Technology, New York, I saw my path even more clearly and started working towards my brand."

An everyday escape into the extraordinary, the brand uses simple silhouettes cut from luxurious fabrics -silks, taffetas, organza's, chiffons aiming to help the customer travel and explore in style. Essgee's vision is to create relatability between the customer and designer's love for natural fabrics, comfortable clothing and the bohemian soul. It holds deep-rooted value: It encourages people that fashion doesn't have to be harmful to the environment. Essgee is a brand that uses its own prints to curate the designs. Sharing about the initial challenges that Sagrika faced, she says, "Since luxury and bohemian were two words never used in the same sentence, we had difficulties in conveying the idea to the Indian market. Slowly and gradually with our collections we found our target customers who never stopped coming back to us."

Essgee wide range of collections is here to solve the trick of the trade with pieces that will see each and everyone through most days. The festive season has just begun

and it's the perfect time to upgrade your arsenal with fusion wear and ethnic dresses to avoid the last-minute chaos. These versatile clothing garments are made to last for years to come, be it dressing up for the warmer months by adding accessories or layering it with additional pieces for when the temperature drops! These garments are here to stay and can be reused multiple times for different types of occasions.

Essgee is a brand that focuses on simple cuts and outlines, using colour palettes like neutrals- curating foundational elements for our wardrobes so that they can be easily mixed and matched with other trendier items to build those well-balanced, forward looks. These are items that one would routinely wear on repeat and would essentially never-give-up thanks to their versatile nature.

"The pandemic impacted us for the good. We went back to our roots again - luxury and comfort. On our brand's second year anniversary, which was in the midst of the pandemic, we launched a lounge and sleep capsule, both equally loved by our community. We are in the midst of a pandemic and in these unprecedented times, nothing made the heart happier than being comfortable and looking great as well," concludes Sagrika.

Breastfeeding a premature baby – Tips to know

Breastfeeding is one of the important factors for a newborn and the mother. Especially when it is a premature baby, introducing the baby to mother's breast milk takes a lot of effort. Breastfeeding can act as a shield to protect premature babies from most of the health issues they develop in the initial stages. If the baby is premature and accepts mother's milk, it helps in reducing problems like gut gangrene and infection thus aiding in quick recovery and early discharge.

Dr Anuradha Lokare, Consultant-OBG, Columbia Asia Hospital Hebbal, "Babies are considered to be pre-term if they are born before the 37th week of pregnancy. If the babies are delivered before 33 weeks, they are not strong enough to be breastfed thus keeping them away from the required nutrition. Until about 32 weeks, babies cannot coordinate sucking, swallowing and breathing during breast feed or bottle feed. The reflex of sucking and swallowing is established only after 34 weeks. Hence, mothers' need to extract the breast milk to feed the baby." It is important to understand that the feeding procedure could be different for different gestation period. Although breastfeeding a premature baby is not always easy, following these tips can help you get your premie breastfeeding experience off to a good start.

Pump it and save it

Premature babies can't always nurse effectively. The mother has to pump the milk which will then be fed to the babies through

**NEWBORN CARE WEEK
(15 TO 21ST NOVEMBER)**



the feeding tube.

Child delivery can be an overwhelming experience. However, trying to pump the breast milk within a few hours of delivery is important for the better breastfeeding outcome. Also, it is crucial to pump the milk often as the baby needs frequent feeding. Premie moms may have to pump milk about 8 times a day.

Read about breastfeeding

Although breastfeeding is a natural process, it may not come naturally for all. Therefore, it is crucial to read about breastfeeding and also consulting the lactation consultant. They will help the premie mom to breastfeed effectively.

The first drops of milk which is secreted is called the colostrums which is rich in antibodies and is important to feed it to the baby. **Skin to skin contact**

Irrespective of the birth weight, skin to skin contact of the mother and baby helps in ensuring warmth and aids in initiation of breastfeeding.

Feeding from the breast

Once the premature baby is more than 34 weeks of gestational age, while holding the baby, they may try to move towards the breast. As they grow stronger, these babies can be breast fed directly. In this stage breastfeeding and tube feeding can be combined.

Yasmin Karachiwala shares pre- and post-workout diet tips

PUJA GUPTA

Fitness and food have a very special relationship. Food serves as fuel for your body and has a direct impact on how your body performs. Keeping this in mind, supplementing it with a healthy and nutritious diet is the key, says well-known fitness and celebrity Master Instructor Yasmin Karachiwala.

When it comes to working out, your diet will always play a crucial part. So, just like how it is important to stretch whilst you're working out to avoid injuries, what you eat before or after your workout also determines how effective your routine will be, she adds.

Yasmin says: "If you thought that eating before and after working out was all about gulping down a protein shake, you might want to give that a second thought".

She shares some recommendations of what you should include in your meal plan prior to and post your workout.

Pre-workout

For your body to perform well, you've got to fuel up-and that means eating the right foods before your workout. Not eating before a workout can result in low blood sugar, which leads to tiredness and fatigue. Ideally, you should fuel your body about 1 to 4 hours pre-workout, depending



on how your body reacts and whatever works best for you.

Making small yet impactful changes to your diet can go a long way in building overall health and add value to your workout routine. Some food items that I would like to recommend are:

Almonds: Adding a handful of almonds to the diet is a good way to start, as they make for a nutritious snacking option, and eating them prior to your workout will

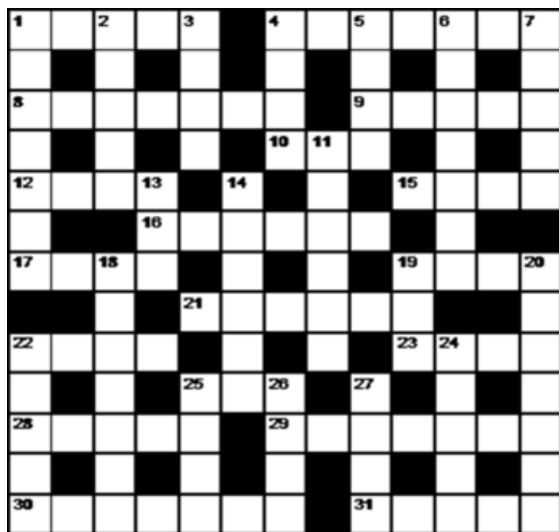
gives you an energetic boost when carbohydrate depletion occurs.

Post-workout

After a workout, your body is depleted of all the good fuel that has been consumed and it's important to replenish your energy after working out. Consuming the right amount of carbohydrates and protein is especially important after a workout. By consuming particular nutrients after your workouts, you improve your body composition, performance, and overall recovery. Try incorporating the following food items to your post-workout regimen:

Oats topped with almonds: Oats are packed with fiber and provide you with sustained energy. They're perfect post a morning workout, cooked in water or skim milk, add a touch of honey for sweetness and top it up with some almonds. Almonds are a rich source of vitamin B2, a vitamin known for its role in energy production and reducing tiredness and fatigue, making them a tasty and healthy topping.

Quinoa: Protein post a workout is essential for good payoff, for your hard work. The carbohydrates in the quinoa will help restore glycogen levels and it's also loaded with protein. Mix it up with some veggies or grilled chicken to add to it.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 20

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Provide with funds (5)
- 4 To what place ? (7)
- 8 Walk wearily (7)
- 9 Fallacy, mistake (5)
- 10 Burdensome charge (3)
- 12 Poultry building (4)
- 15 Helsinki chap (4)
- 16 Charge (6)
- 17 Swear or curse (4)
- 19 Irritable (4)
- 21 Opulence (6)
- 22 Homer's son (4)
- 23 Biblical garden (4)
- 25 Pig-pen (3)
- 28 India's first P.M. (5)
- 29 Exterior (7)
- 30 One doing a favour (7)
- 31 Classifies or ranks (5)

Down

- 1 Attracted or lured (7)
- 2 Constellation : The dragon (5)
- 3 Shed tears, cried (4)
- 4 Sharpen (4)
- 5 Holly (4)
- 6 Hasty (7)
- 7 Showed the movie or play again, in a way ? (2-3)
- 11 Amass (6)
- 13 ___ drop silence (3)
- 14 Accommodate (6)
- 18 Arrange in order (7)
- 19 An organ of sight (3)
- 20 Americans (7)
- 22 Musical instrument (5)
- 24 Go aimlessly (5)
- 25 Warbled or intoned (4)
- 26 ___ Highness : King's title? (4)
- 27 Whisk, agitate (4)

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 20

NEWS ROUNDUP

Jacqueline shares sneak peek of her glam look in 'Bhoot Police'

Actress Jacqueline Fernandez on Friday gave fans a sneak peek into her glamorous look in the upcoming horror comedy, Bhoot Police. She is currently shooting for the film in the scenic hill town.

After wrapping up a schedule in Dalhousie, the actress is now in Dharamshala with the rest of the cast and crew.

In the new photos she shared, Jacqueline is dressed in a white shirt and black jacket with a black hat. She is seen getting her make-up done. "Bonjour from Dharamshala! @marcepedrozo I have no idea what you are doing! @savleenmanchanda @shaammu babies," she captioned the images. Earlier, she had posted a Diwali video with her co-stars in the film, Yami Gautam, Saif Ali Khan and Arjun Kapoor. Jacqueline will have Kick 2 starring Salman Khan and the Ramveer Singh-starrer Cirkus lined up.



Marriage between 1st cousins illegal: HC

AMIRTSAR

THE Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that marriage between first cousins is illegal. The court said that marriage which petitioner man wants to perform with a girl, who is his first cousin, was also per se illegal. "...the submission in the present petition that as and when she (the girl) attains the age of 18 years, they will perform marriage is also per se illegal," the judge said on Thursday while hearing the petition. The assertion came after a 21-year-old man moved the high court against state of Punjab seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered under Sections 363 (kidnapping), 366A (procuration of minor girl) of the IPC at police station Khanna City-2 in Ludhiana district on August 18. The state counsel, while opposing the bail plea, contented that the girl was a minor and her parents had lodged the FIR as she and the man were first cousins and their fathers were brothers. The

man's counsel told Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan that the petitioner had also filed a criminal writ petition, along with the girl, for protection of life and liberty.

The court file of the criminal writ petition was summoned during the hearing and as per its memorandum of parties, the girl was stated to be 17 years of age and the petitioner man had filed the petition with the submission that both of them were in a "live-in-relationship". It was stated in the petition that date of birth of the girl was August 2003 and on the date of filing the petition on September 3, 2020, she was of the age of 17 years and 14 days. Along with petition, a representation was also annexed, in which the girl had stated that her parents loved their sons but ignored her, therefore, she decided to live with her friend (petitioner) and on that account, she was apprehending that her parents can harass them and disturb the peace of their mind.

Har Health Minister gets Covid trial dose



HARYANA Health Minister Anil Vij was administered a trial dose of potential coronavirus vaccine Covaxin here, becoming the first volunteer in the State for the third phase trial of the vaccine. The third phase trial of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin began in the state on Friday and the 67-year old senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader was administered the trial dose at the Civil Hospital at Ambala Cantt. Vij is stated to be the first cabinet minister of any State government who has volunteered to take the trial dose of a potential vaccine against COVID-19.

COVID-INFECTED LETTERS: INTERPOL WARNS *NETAS*

Interpol did not mention any specific instances where aforementioned type of letters were sent to anyone of political stature

NEW DELHI

THE novel coronavirus, that has wreaked havoc across the world could also be used to target political leaders in several countries, including India, the international police organisation, commonly known as Interpol has warned in its latest set of guidelines.

Citing reports of "individuals spitting and coughing in the faces of law enforcement officers, health practitioners and essential worker to intimidate them", the international agency has warned law agencies in India and 193 other member countries that "Covid-infected letters" might be sent to political figures and individuals, a report in Hindustan Times said.

The guidelines said that "this could represent a risk if these individuals are infected with Covid-19." "Attempts at deliberate contamination by spitting and coughing on surfaces and objects has been reported." The guidelines further said that "despite limited risk, a few cases of threatening letters allegedly contaminated with COVID-19 targeted political figures. "This modus operandi, the agency said can also be used to target other vulnerable groups. However, Interpol did not mention any specific instances where aforementioned type of letters were sent to anyone of political stature.

Warning its member states further, Interpol said that often individuals may knowingly move from Covid-19 affected areas to non-affected areas despite even though travel restrictions



are in place and they also might not be physically up to par. It said that instances of individuals claiming to sell contaminated samples of body fluids online have also been reported, thus causing a major health risk. The security agency, following these risk factors also listed out precautions that can be undertaken by the respective nations' security agencies.

Postal and front-desk services should be informed of biological threats posed by suspicious packages and follow the regular protection measures, Interpol said. This is not the first time the agency has come out with a security detail on the threats of coronavirus.

INDIA BREACHES 90-LAKH MARK

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S COVID-19 caseload surpassed the 90-lakh mark on Friday with 45,882 new cases, while the recoveries surged to 84.28 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 93.6 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The total coronavirus cases mounted to 90,04,365 and the death toll climbed to 1,32,162 with the novel coronavirus virus claiming 584 lives in a span of 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further declined to 1.46 per cent. There are 4,43,794 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 4.92 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 12,95,91,786 samples have been tested up to November 20 with 10,83,397 samples being tested on Thursday.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29. The 584 new fatalities include 154 from Maharashtra, 98 from Delhi, 53 from West Bengal, 39 from Uttar Pradesh, 26 each from Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, 20 from Haryana.

AG gives consent for contempt proceedings against Kamra

NEW DELHI

ATTORNEY General K K Venugopal Friday gave consent for initiating contempt proceedings against stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra for his November 18 tweet, saying it was "grossly vulgar and obnoxious" and tended to lower the authority of the Supreme Court. The top law officer had last week granted consent for initiation of contempt proceedings against Kamra for his earlier tweets which allegedly criticised the apex court, saying they were in "bad taste" and it was time people understood that attacking it brazenly will attract punishment. The consent of either the Attorney General or the Solicitor General is necessary, under section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, for initiating contempt proceedings against a person.

CBI reduced to 'paan shop' under BJP rule: Maha Min

MUMBAI

LAUDING the Supreme Court ruling of Thursday, Maharashtra Textile Minister Aslam Shaikh said that the CBI has become a 'paan shop' under the BJP regime, here on Friday.

"Under the BJP, the CBI has become a 'paan patti ki dukaan' (paan shop) It goes anywhere, books anybody, particularly in non-BJP ruled states," said Shaikh, a senior Congress leader, while reacting to the verdict.

Welcoming the Apex Court ruling that the CBI must mandatorily get the state government's nod before probing in their jurisdiction, Shaikh, who is

Guardian Minister of Mumbai, said that the CBI had booked CMs and even ministers.

A Supreme Court division bench comprising Justice A. M. Khanwilkar and Justice B. R. Gavai on Thursday gave a significant ruling that the consent of the state government is a must for the CBI and the Centre cannot extend the agency's jurisdiction to any state without its permission.

It may be recalled that in recent months, several non-BJP administered states like Maharashtra, Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have withdrawn their 'general consent' permitting the CBI to probe cases in their states.



CHHATH CELEBRATED

Devotees perform rituals on the banks of Ganga River on the occasion of 'Chhath Puja' in Kolkata on Friday

1,300 year-old Hindu temple discovered in Pakistan's Swat

LAHORE

HINDU temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in Swat district of northwest Pakistan. The discovery was made during an excavation at Barikot Ghundai. Announcing the discovery on Thursday, Fazle Khaliq of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Archaeology said that the temple discovered is of God Vishnu. It was built by the Hindus 1,300 years ago during the Hindu Shahi period, he said.

Hindu Temple Dating Back to 1,300 Years Discovered in Northwest Pakistan's Swat The Hindu Shahis or Kabul Shahis (850-1026 CE) was a Hindu dynasty that ruled the

Kabul Valley (eastern Afghanistan), Gandhara (modern-day Pakistan), and present-day northwestern India. During their excavation, the archaeologists also found traces of cantonment and watchtowers near the temple site. The experts also found a water tank near the temple site which they believed used by the Hindus for bathing before worship.

Khaliq said that Swat district is home to thousand-year-old archaeology sites and the traces of the Hindu Shahi period have been found for the first time in the area. Dr. Luka, the head of the Italian archaeological mission, said this the first temple of the Gandhara civilisation discovered in Swat district. Swat district is among the top 20 sites in Pakistan which is home to every kind of tourism like natural beauty, religious tourism, cultural tourism.

UP to bring law against Love Jihad soon

LUCKNOW

THE Yogi Adityan-led Uttar Pradesh government has now sent a proposal to bring in a strict law against 'Love Jihad' in

the state. The Home department said that the government will enact a strict law to check the cases of love jihad, news agency ANI reported. The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh is also planning to introduce

Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020 in the next session of the state Assembly in view of the rising incidents of "love jihad", state Home Minister Narotam Mishra said here on Tuesday.

'Love jihad' BJP's coin to disturb communal harmony

JAIPUR

AMID assertions by BJP-ruled states that they plan to introduce strict laws against "love jihad", Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said the term is manufactured by that party to disturb communal harmony. He said marriage is a matter of personal liberty and bringing a law to curb it is unconstitutional.

It will not stand scrutiny in any court of law, he added. "Love jihad is a word manufactured by BJP to divide the nation and disturb communal harmony," he tweeted. "Jihad has no place in love. They are creating an environment in the nation where consenting adults would be at the mercy of state power.

Marriage is a personal decision and they are putting curbs on it, which is



like snatching away personal liberty," Gehlot said. "It seems a ploy to disrupt communal harmony, fuel social conflict and disregard constitutional provisions like the state not discriminating against citizens on any

ground," he added. Gehlot remarks follow recent announcements by ministers in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh that they are considering enactment of laws to curb marriages for the sake of conversion. BJP leaders have alleged that Hindu women face "love jihad", or conversion in the name of love and marriage.

BJP state president Satish Poonia hit out at Gehlot, claiming that his statement reflected "petty vote bank politics". "It is hard to believe that the chief minister will get so rattled by the plight of the Congress nationwide. We all know that marriage in the tradition of India is a religious and socially recognised rite, and is not limited only to freedom of the individual," he said. "I think the way they have accused the BJP is baseless," he said.

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SINCE 1981
మీ కలలకు సాకారం

నరైన సమయంలో చక్కని నిర్ణయం మంచి ఫలితాలను అందించింది

నా ఎంపిక కపిల్ చిట్స్ ఇప్పటికీ వెన్నంటి ఉంది.

Tibet assumes centrestage

THIS week the US House of Representatives passed a resolution titled "H. Res. 697: – Affirming the significance of" the advocacy for genuine autonomy for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding.

The Resolution, headed by Congressman Ted Yoho, states that the House of Representatives: (1) recognizes the cultural and religious significance of a genuinely autonomous Tibet and the deep bond between the American and Tibetan people; (2) commends the 14th Dalai Lama for his commitment to global peace and non-violence; and (3) determines that it would be beneficial to convene a bipartisan, bicameral forum, either

through a Joint Meeting of Congress, a teleconference broadcast in the Auditorium at the Capitol Visitor Center, or roundtable, between Members of Congress and His Holiness the Dalai Lama to discuss peaceful solutions to international conflicts.

The US must continue to work with allies to secure freedom from oppression for the Tibetan people. The Chinese government systematically prevents US diplomats, officials, journalists and tourists from travel to Tibet Autonomous Region. In a double whammy to China, another resolution was passed simultaneously by the US House to condemn the acts by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong for violating fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents as well as acts

that undermine Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy.

Both the resolutions target Chinese authorities for its violation of human rights. US Speaker Nancy Pelosi applauded the passing of the resolutions on Twitter. The House sent a strong message with the passage of resolutions calling for the end of China's human rights abuses. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel Brownback reasserted that only Tibetan Buddhists can choose the next Dalai Lama, "[China has] no right to do that. They have no theological basis to do that. The Tibetan Buddhists have successfully picked their leader for hundreds of years, if not longer, and they have the right to do that now."

It is a crucial resolution that recognises the cultural and religious significance of an autonomous Tibet and seeks peaceful solutions to the Tibet issue. The CCP sees Tibet culture and

religious heritage as a threat to its control. Just as they've done with Islam and Christianity, the Chinese Communist Party is trying to stamp out Tibetan Buddhism and the Tibetan way of life, even though Tibet is guaranteed autonomy under China's constitution. Despite these challenges, the Dalai Lama has stood as a leader in the promotion of human rights and of religious harmony and the preservation of Tibetan culture and religion as it is universally acknowledged.

The Resolution details His Holiness the Dalai Lama's promotion of human values, promotion of religious harmony, and preservation of Tibetan culture and religion and quotes him stating, "I remain convinced that most human conflicts can be solved through genuine dialogue conducted with the spirit of openness and reconciliation." Still, it is a long way ahead and a rogue country like China will not easily mend its ways.



Theatres reopen but see low footfalls

AHANA BHATTACHARYA

CINEMA halls and multiplexes have reopened after eight months but business is slow due to a number of factors like lack of new Hindi film releases and fear among the people regarding sitting in an enclosed areas with others amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the low paying workers associated with cinema halls and multiplexes, have been directly hit.

For some, there has been a pay cut since the lockdown happened. Many others have just lost their jobs and are waiting for new opportunities. Many of these workers are migrants in the big city, and the sole bread winners of their families.

Himanshu Kumar from Bihar's Saran, who has been working at a multiplex in Bengaluru as an electrician for two years, had his payment reduced to 40 per cent during the lockdown and is still not getting his due.

Talking about the same, Himanshu told IANS: "Although the multiplex was shut during lockdown, the CCTV cameras and fire extinguishers were on. I had to go and check these once in every 10 days. During lockdown, I was getting 40 per cent of my total pay, which has slightly increased in November, but I am still not getting my full payment."

The migrant worker further informed that he is looking for a job with better pay options because he has to take care of his mother, elder brother and sister-in-law back in his hometown. "I will continue for two to three months more and then look for better payment options," Himanshu informed.

Arijit Shil used to work as a security guard at a multiplex in Madhyamgram in the outskirts of Kolkata, but he lost his job after theatres shut down.

"I have worked as a security guard in the multiplex for over a year. When lockdown began, the theatre was shut, so we were out of work for four months. When the theatre reopened after lockdown, they retained only around six people who have been associated with the multiplex from the beginning. I have been told that my services will be required only when the theatre starts getting footfalls," he said.

Arijit's wife, a homemaker, has taken up a job to support her husband because he is no longer getting the monthly paycheck of Rs 10,000 that he used to earn from his job as a security guard.

He added: "I sat at home for the four months of lockdown. Then I worked at the packaging department of a herbal products company for two months on a contractual basis. Now, I am again looking for work. I called up my agency today asking them for work as I desperately need money. Meanwhile, my wife, who was a homemaker has started working at a garments manufacturing unit to help run our household."

Arijit and Himanshu represent the countless number of workers from different parts of the country associated with cinema halls and multiplexes, who have a similar story to tell. While cinema hall and multiplex owners wait for the audience to turn up, workers at these properties are busy figuring out how to earn their bread. The coronavirus pandemic has affected them too, but in a different way.

Tech consortium alarmed over Pak's new internet curbs

HAMZA AMEER

WITH the Pakistan government announcing new rules framed under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, imposing more restrictions on internet usage by revealing the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure Oversight and Safeguards) Rules 2020, a tech consortium has hinted at the possible withdrawal of its services from the country.

The Asia Internet Coalition (AIC), an international tech consortium of firms including Facebook, Google, Twitter and Yahoo, has issued a statement expressing "alarm" at Pakistan government's latest rules for online content.

"AIC is alarmed by the scope of the new rules, which target internet companies, as well as service providers and individual users who might post or share offending content," the AIC statement read.

The AIC also expressed serious concern over what it called "government's opaque process by which these rules were developed". The AIC highlighted that the stakeholder consultation process, which was promised by the Pakistan government in February, "never occurred".

"The draconian data localisation requirements will damage the ability of the people to access a free and open internet and shut Pakistan's digital economy off from the rest of the world," read the AIC statement.

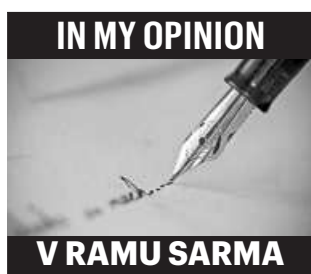
"It is chilling to see PTA (Pakistan Telecommunication Authority) powers expanded, allowing it to force social media companies to violate established human rights norms on privacy and freedom of expression," the statement added.

In February 2020, Prime Minister Imran Khan had suspended the Citizen Protection Against Online Harm Rules 2020, stating that the government would seek a broad-based consultation with all the stakeholders and formulate new policies for online content.

However, the new law has sent shock waves down the spine of the internet companies. Under the new rules, the PTA has been empowered to block entire online systems and networks that do not comply with its request for removal of offending content, which can include criticism of the government or public office holders, and also mandates all social media companies to provide decrypted data of its entire user base.

The new rules, declared as draconian by the tech giants, has prompted an immediate response from internet-based companies, which have said that it would be extremely difficult for AIC members to make their service available to Pakistani users and businesses.

Reminding about the letter it had written to Imran Khan, the AIC reiterated that "if Pakistan truly wanted to be an attractive destination for technology investment and realise its goal of digital transformation, it needed to pull back and work with industry on practical, clear rules that protect the benefits of the internet and keep people safe from harm".



WHILE the aversion towards the State Election Commissioner is delaying holding of local body polls in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, which saw a high decibel campaign in the just concluded Dubbaka by-election has seen it entering GHMC limits as the stage is set for Baldia. The GHMC 2020 election is going to be crucial for both the ruling TRS and the BJP which wants to emerge as the number two party. In fact, both are seeing this election as a trailer for the next general election which may be held towards end of 2022 or early 2023. The big question hence is 'Baldia Bali Kaun'?

If the TRS can manage to retain its present strength of 99 it will be a morale booster for the cadre which was little dejected with the outcome of Dubbaka bypoll. Retaining its present strength will also be a shot in the arm for the pink party and it can take a much harsher stand against the BJP claiming that people have once again voted for Bangaru Telangana.

But the most disturbing factor even before the campaign has been formally launched is that both are claiming that the fight is between "nationalists and anti-nationalists." The language from both sides is becoming harsher day by day.

The Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao wanted the party men to go to people and ask if they want development and peaceful Hyderabad or a city where there would be stabbings, curfew and frequent trouble.

Calling the BJP a Hindutva Party he hinted that if they are given a chance in Baldia, they would create communal trouble which would affect the brand

image of Hyderabad. On the contrary, if it is Car Hamara, Sarkar Hamara and Mayor Hamara there will be peace and development.

"During pandemic it was TRS which went into containment zones and told them we are there, gave cash dole, rice and even took care of migrant labour while the "so called leaders of opposition were hiding in their houses," is one of the jibes TRS is making against BJP.

Calling the saffron party as anti-farmer and responsible for slowdown in economy and taking steps to privatise public sector undertakings (though they do not have much to do with city-related issues), the Chief Minister even said that "God knows where the chawala has gone. The same man who claimed that he sold tea in a railway station is selling Railways today".

Not just this, KCR also announced that he would convene a conclave of non-Congress parties to muster support to take on BJP sometime during second week of December. "It is our responsibility to take the lead to fight against BJP. I will bring all non-BJP parties onto a single platform," KCR thundered at the party meeting.

In another strategic move, the TRS has given over 50 percent of the seats to BCs and 17 seats to minorities. It has given three seats to STs as against two reserved seats and 13 to Dalits as against 10 reserved seats. TRS just does not speak of social justice but practices it. It is the only party which gave prominent place for women and has decided to have a woman mayor as well, the party rank and file have been told to go door-to-door and tell the people.

The party this time is taking extra measures to douse the possible internal dissent from among those who could not get tickets. The party working president KTR asked the candidates to go to the houses of aspirants who could not make it and seek their cooperation in the election and assure them that they would



One thing is clear both the TRS and BJP want to establish the TINA factor (There is no alternative). The BJP which is known for coming up with catchy slogans has also coined a new word BITA (BJP is the Alternative). It now remains to be seen to what extent this strategy would work. The saffron party feels that this narrative had helped them in managing caste configuration in Lok Sabha elections and hopes that it will help them in encashing the anti-incumbency votes

take the responsibility to see that those who could not make it would get due recognition by the party. All this had become necessary as there is lot at stake and if its number goes down, it could have repercussions in the 2023 Assembly polls.

The political war has already taken a fierce turn. The BJP which has released an official list of 128 candidates is continuing its aggressive attitude and has even gone to the extent of calling the TRS and Chief Minister as traitor. They also alleged that the AIMIM had links with terrorists and the TRS was having alliance with them. The saffron party is also going to people promising to give Rs 20,000 as against Rs 10,000 being offered by TRS government as immediate relief to those who lost their belongings during the recent floods. Not just that, those whose cars and furniture were damaged will get car and furniture, they said.

Both sides have activated their social media wings and war rooms have been opened to work out poll strategies. The high decibel campaign for the 10-member TRS star campaigners will be led by KCR. The party working president KTR will be

hitting the roads from Sunday. The BJP has named State president Bandi Sanjay, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, MP D Arvind, K Laxman, D K Aruna, P Muralidhar Rao, G Vivek, Raja Singh and Raghunandan Rao as the star campaigners.

The Congress team will be led by PCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy, CLP leader Bhatti Vikram, Mohammed Shabbir Ali, A Revanth Reddy, Mohammad Azharuddin and Ponnamm Prabhakar.

On the other hand, all parties are creating temporary job opportunities for unemployed youth by hiring them for poll campaign. They are being offered Rs 1000 per day and accommodation.

One thing is clear both the TRS and BJP want to establish the TINA factor (There is no alternative). The BJP which is known for coming up with catchy slogans has also coined a new word BITA (BJP is the Alternative). It now remains to be seen to what extent this strategy would work. The saffron party feels that this narrative had helped them in managing caste configuration in Lok Sabha elections and hopes that it will help them in encashing the anti-incumbency votes

KCR's 'national' ambitions

TELANGANA state Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has come openly supporting and not to disinvest the public sectors in India. Though the critics are seeing this as an election stunt by KCR, it is pertinent at this moment to take such a bold step when the central government is seriously pursuing to disinvest the important public sectors. KCR was very vocal and vehement in opposing the move of the central government to privatise key sectors of our country. He categorically mentioned the names of sectors which have been helpful to the people and the country so far. He specifically quoted how Life Insurance Corporation of India has been at the Beck and call of the central government to help in need. His mentioning about multinational companies and their hoodwinking policies compared to Indian public sector is worth emulating.

G Thirupathaiah, Hyderabad

BJP should go it alone

We understand that Jana Sena is supporting BJP, but BJP should understand that Jana Sena has no base either in AP or in Telangana State. Getting a support from Jana Sena has no benefit for BJP, rather it may result in loss of BJP votes.

Now BJP should be bold enough to fight elections directly and win the elections for the benefit of people of GHMC. When once they come to power in GHMC, they must concentrate on long pending problems like: low laying flood prone areas, improving roads, drainage system, storm water drain system, providing corrupt free rule, improving sanitization in the colony's, shifting of dumping yards, improving health and hygiene etc.

Sambasiva Rao Choda, Hyderabad

AP SEC should mend his ways

IT seems there is to be no end to the war between State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar and the State government over the holding of local body elections that began with the abrupt postponement of ongoing process for the same on March 15 in the pretext of raging Coronavirus.

The Commissioner took unilateral decision of postponement of elections even without consulting either the political boss or officials. This issue has taken several twists and it was even moved to the apex court which directed the Commissioner to coordinate with the State government as and when he wants to restart the process. Instead he has reactivated the process by holding all party meeting without informing the government.

Earlier he written letters to the Union Home Ministry requesting it to provide personal security and blaming the CM and his cabinet in unsolicited manner. As such the State government tried its best to replace him. But the Supreme Court intervened and restored Ramesh Kumar as the SEC. Despite this, the Commissioner has not moulded his ways and giving impression that he is siding a political party.

Moreover he who is particular about holding of local body elections by hook or crook did not initiate even the election process in the previous government when their terms came to end in 2018 despite the court directions. Even now he ought to stop war of letters and rise to the occasion as Constitutional authority rather than a politician and state government also must give due respect to the SEC by forgetting the past in the interest of the State.

Pratap Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru

thehansreader@gmail.com

LETTERS

Strange games of TRS

AFTER having been cosy with MIM all these years and extending largesse to the party and Muslims in the name of development, TRS working President KT Rama Rao coming out to say that his party will have no truck with MIM in GHMC polls is unbelievable. In fact after the loss of Dubbaka seat to BJP, the CM appears jittery is coming out with various statements to cut BJP to size by first announcing a meet of non-BJP parties after the municipal elections and in the same tone asking his party leaders to raise national issues like communal politics and privatisation of PSUs during the campaign trail only goes to show that the party is desperate not to give any room to BJP to score in any of the 150 wards.

Further, when TRS has been having electoral understanding with MIM in Assembly elections, the sudden outburst by working President that TRS would contest in all 150 wards on the plea that support to AIMIM support has always been issue based only one to believe that there would be tacit understanding with friendly contests in the wards that are stronghold of MIM. With every party claiming that it is going to win, the municipal elections this time unlike in the past is turning out to be prestigious contest with TRS crossing swords with BJP by wooing voters with all sorts of promises and similarly BJP playing Hindutva card. All these points out that it is not a cake walk for anyone with the results showing a photo finish thus reminding the parties that voters cannot be taken for granted with rhetoric.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

JAGAN TO SET STONE FOR 4 FISHING HARBOURS TODAY

- ▶ 25 aqua hubs to be inaugurated
- ▶ He will launch AP-Amul project on Nov 26
- ▶ Animal Husbandry Minister Appala Raju says 7,125 bulk milk chilling units at a cost of Rs 1,362 cr to be set up in three phases
- ▶ According to Minister 2.50 lakh beneficiaries came forward to rear dairy cattle, sheep and goats which will be provided at a cost of Rs 5,386 cr under YSR Cheyutha



Minister for Animal Husbandry S Appalaraju addressing the media at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will inaugurate the joint project of the state government and Amul on November 26, said minister for animal husbandry Seediri Appala Raju.

Addressing the media at the Secretariat here on Friday, the minister said that 7,125 bulk milk chilling centres would be constructed at a cost of Rs 1,362 crore in three

phases all over the state. As part of the celebration of World Fishermen Day on Saturday, the Chief Minister would lay foundation stone for four fishing harbours, he said.

The state government would purchase directly from the dairy farmers. The bulk milk chilling centres would be run by Rythu Bharosa Kendras under the aegis of women dairy farmers.

In the first phase, milk would be purchased through the

bulk milk chilling units in Prakasam, Chittoor and Kadapa districts. The AP-Amul milk project would be inaugurated by the Chief Minister on November 26.

Referring to the construction of eight fishing harbours, the minister said that the Chief Minister would lay foundation stone for four harbours on Saturday, November 21, in addition to inaugurating 25 aqua hubs. This would enable the fishermen to get continuous livelihood

without any break throughout the year.

Referring to the YSR Cheyutha programme, the minister said that 2.50 lakh beneficiaries came forward to rear dairy cattle, sheep and goats at a cost of Rs 5,386 crore. Each unit of dairy cattle, goats and sheep would cost Rs 75,000 and the beneficiaries would be given good quality units.

Under the milk chilling units, five to 10 lakh litre milk would flood the market.

The minister announced that the dairy cattle would be purchased from Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Telangana and from the state also. However, the goats and sheep could be purchased from any district.

The minister said that purchase committees would be set up for buying goats and sheep comprising SERP officer, bank representative, veterinary officer along with the beneficiaries.

One lakh milch cattle would be distributed to the beneficiaries in three months starting from December 31 in ten districts except Chittoor, Prakasam and Kadapa.

DELAY IN POLAVARAM PROJECT

‘YSRCP, TDP trying to pass blame on BJP’

- ▶ Party national secretary Satya Kumar holds both the parties responsible for the dragging on of the project
- ▶ Alleges that the two parties have used the project as a cash machine
- ▶ Comes down heavily on Jagan for the increasing attacks on Hindu temples and other religious propaganda



BJP activists and friends felicitate party national secretary Y Satya Kumar in Tirupati on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

BJP national secretary Y Satya Kumar accused the ruling YSR Congress Party and the opposition TDP of turning Polavaram project into a political issue to hit BJP.

Speaking at a function held here to felicitate him on the occasion of his reappointment as BJP national secretary and also his elevation as co-in-charge for UP BJP and party in-charge for Andaman Nicobar Islands here on Friday, Satya Kumar said that both the parties unmindful of their failures with the regard to Polavaram project completion were trying their best to pass the blame for the delay on to BJP to make it unpopular.

Without mincing words, he said the project turned as an ATM for both the parties who inflated the total cost of the project, including increasing extent of land acquired for the project so as to derive amount from the Centre, and asserted that it was the corruption coupled with the failure of the two parties that was delaying the project and BJP was in no way responsible. In fact, the project was conceived long back in 1980 and in 2005,

canal works were taken up when the BJP was not in power at the Centre or state, he said to assert that BJP is no way responsible for Polavaram project delay.

Continuing his attack on Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, he said the attacks on Hindu temples were on the rise while other religious propaganda was in full swing in the state after YSRCP came to power. “Whether it is intentional or inability, the attacks on Hindu temples remain unabated,” he said adding that his party was dubbed communal for voicing its concern over attacks on Hindu temples.

He further said Tirupati-Tirumala is the most sacred place for Hindus world over but the painful incidents coming out, citing the recent incidents in SVBC in which it was found porn material was forwarded.

Also, it was the place from where a person posed as a devout Hindu to get their votes to win the election ultimately leading to a series of attacks on temples and vigorous foreign religion

propaganda, he said. Turning the get-together meeting organised by the party activists and friends who are long associated with him as a launch pad for the party campaign for the Tirupati byelection, the BJP national leader made a scathing attack on both ruling YSRCP and TDP criticising them as a family party promoting hereditary politics.

The BJP leader called on the party activists to do their best to ensure the BJP-Jana Sena alliance wins the Tirupati Lok Sabha by election as a present it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an invaluable prize.

In the beginning of his address, Satya Kumar recalled his association with Chittoor district and also his student days in Madanapalli GMR Polytechnic sowing the seed for his political career as student leader.

BJP leaders including party state spokespersons G Bhanu prakash Reddy, S Srinivas, Lok Sabha constituency president S Dayakar Reddy Satya Prakash and friends from various places attended in good number.

1,221 fresh cases, 10 deaths reported in AP

AMARAVATI

STATE’ Covid-19 tally touched 8,59,932 as 1,221 fresh cases were added in 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday. With 1,829 more patients getting cured, the total recoveries rose to 8,37,630, the latest bulletin said. Ten fresh fatalities pushed the toll up to 6,920, it said. The number of active cases now stood at 15,382. After 94.74 lakh sample tests, the overall infection positivity rate slid to 9.08 per cent while the recovery rate further improved to 97.41 per cent. Only East Godavari district reported 202 fresh cases in 24 hours while Krishna, Chittoor, West Godavari and Guntur added less than 200 each. Six districts reported less than 50 new cases each while two others added less than 100 cases each in 24 hours, the bulletin added. Chittoor and Krishna districts also reported two more Covid-19 deaths each while six districts added one each to their tally. PTI

YSRCP govt accused of undermining poll laws

AMARAVATI

FORMER minister and TDP senior leader Yanamala Ramakrishnu on Friday accused the YSRCP government of undermining the election related laws as well as the Constitution by challenging the autonomy of the State Election Commissioner.

Ramakrishnu said that the SEC was an independent Constitutional institution whose authority and decision-making cannot be questioned by anybody else. The YSRCP regime’s non-cooperation amounted to violation of the Constitution itself.

In a statement here, Ramakrishnu said that the government’s non-cooperation was in the nature of violating the Article 243 K and 243 Z (A). The strange arguments of the YSRCP rule were indeed unfortunate and unacceptable. The SEC was required to consult the government but that does not mean he should take consent before holding the polls.

The TDP leader asserted that such a meaningless government and such a reverse Chief Minister was never seen before in the history of the state. The Jagan regime was expecting the State Election Commission to take its

- TDP leader Yanamala stresses that SEC doesn’t need govt’s consent to hold local elections
- Terms govt’s refusal to cooperate with the poll panel in conducting local body polls as violation of Constitution

consent to hold the elections. Despite the courts passing orders against the controversial decisions, the government was not mending its ways, he said.

Stating that nepotism and favouritism were ruling the roost in AP, Ramakrishnu said that Jagan’s rule was like that of the defeated Donald Trump in the US. While Trump violated the American laws, Jagan undermined the laws of the Indian Constitution. The state chief secretary has no authority to tell the SEC that the elections cannot be held, he said.

The TDP leader demanded that the forcible unanimous elections that took place earlier should be cancelled and fresh elections be held to ensure a vibrant democracy.

CM promises Council seat to late MP’s son

- Wife and son of Balli Durga Rao’s call on CM

AMARAVATI

THE family members of former Tirupati MP B Durga Prasada Rao called on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at his camp office here on Friday.

Municipal administration minister Botcha Satyanarayana, who accompanied them, told media that the wife and son of late MP Durga Prasada Rao met the Chief Minister who extended his support to the family and promised MLC post to the son of the late MP in first vacant position in the legislative council, he said. Speaking on the occasion, Balli Kalyan Chakra varthy said the Chief Minister had stood by his family ever since his father died due to Covid-19. He said the Chief Minister had promised MLC post for him in first vacant position in the Council and his family would be grateful to the Chief Minister forever.

It’s Galli vs Delhi

Continued from P1

KTR told the party rank and file to knock on every door and explain to them what the government had done in last six years to build the brand image of Hyderabad and ask what the ‘Delhi’ party had done for the city. He also told them to ask the voters whether they want peaceful Hyderabad which could see better development or anarchy in city. In an attempt to douse internal dissent, KTR asked the candidates to visit the houses of aspirants who could not get tickets and seek their support and seek their cooperation and blessings.

The TRS leader said that the BJP rakes up Hindu- Muslim and India- Pakistan issues before every election. “The BJP chief here went to a temple to swear... he could have chosen any temple but he went to Bhagyalakshmi temple. They are only interested in Hindu- Muslim politics as they do not have plans to explain what they will do for the city of Hyderabad. They are making all kind of frivolous promises. They say they will waive traffic challans but it is their own government at Centre which amended the Act and increased challans. How can there be two policies for same party, he asked. Rama Rao said that the TRS was the only party which cares for social justice in letter and spirit. It gave 75 seats to BCs, 17 seats to minorities, three seats to STs and 13 seats to SCs. The party also gave eight seats to the natives of Andhra Pradesh. He said Telangana was prospering because of two reasons and that was because of the presence of a strong leader with a vision and law and order situation in the state was good with a peaceful atmosphere. Next ten days are very crucial and the party should not leave any stone unturned to see that it once again establishes its supremacy by winning more than 100 divisions, he added.

Bhogapuram airport will soon be readied: Vijayasai



Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy speaking at a news conference in Visakhapatnam on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

VERY soon, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay the foundation for Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport, said YSRCP Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy here on Friday.

Addressing the media, the MP reiterated that the current airport will be handed over to the navy once the commercial operation commences at Bhogapuram airport. Expressing concern over how a section of the media is trying to propagate a ‘false campaign’

against handing over of the airport to the Navy, Vijayasai Reddy appealed to a few media representatives not to mislead the public by reporting ‘unethically’.

Clarifying further on the airport, the MP said the current airport will be handed over to the Navy within 30 days from the date of commencement of the commercial operations at Bhogapuram airport. The decision towards this was taken in the presence of the civil aviation minister and secretary, Airports Authority of India chairman, he recalled. Elaborating on Polavaram project, the MP said works will be accelerated as the project is scheduled to be wrapped up by December, 2021.

Terming the conduct of State Election Commission (SEC) as biased, Vijayasai Reddy pointed out that the State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar is playing to the tunes of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and thus rushing for the local body elections, despite the prevalence of Covid pandemic. Taking a dig at the SEC, the MP opined that he might likely join the TDP as working president post his retirement. Agriculture minister K Kannababu, tourism minister M Srinivasa Rao and MP MVV Satyanarayana, among others were present.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

JAGANANNA Vidya Kanuka week will be celebrated in all government and aided schools from November 23 in an attempt to improve the implementation of the programme, said director of school education Vadrevu China Veerabhadru.

He said in a statement here on Friday that the week celebrations would help the officials to find out any problems in the implementation of the programme and to rectify them while implementing the same in the next academic year.

He recalled that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the programme at the Zilla Parishad High School at Punadipadu in Krishna district on October 8.

As part of the programme, 42.34 lakh students in the 46,593 government and aided schools throughout the state were supplied student kits comprising



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launching the distribution of student kits ZP High School at Punadipadu in Krishna district on October 8

three pairs of uniform, one set notebooks, textbooks, one pair shoes, two pairs of socks, one belt, three masks.

The week celebrations would help the officials to learn whether all the students had received the kits, and also to find out whether there were any problems the students were facing with the kits.

The celebrations would include biometric identification of all the students, to find out whether the students got the uniform stitched, to inform the parents that the tailoring charge was credited into the mother’s bank account, to teach the students the cleanliness of socks and how to put on boots, if there is variation of size of the boots to rectify them, how to use the school bags

and if there is excess weight in the bag to rectify them. The officials were instructed to inform the higher officials if they find any problems with the kits.

The government had already credited Rs 120 at the rate of Rs 40 per pair for stitching for the students of 1st and 8th classes and Rs 240 at the rate of Rs 80 per pair for stitching for the students Classes 9 and 10.

The director said that already instructions were given to the district education officers, additional project coordinators of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, deputy district education officers, CMOs, district sectorial officers, headmasters to take the responsibility personally to make the celebrations programme a grand success.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Auto LPG sector demands level playing field

“What is more frustrating is the fact that we have clean alternative fuels that can help us achieve a significant gain in air quality. Auto LPG is a readily available fuel with negligible emissions of nitrogen dioxides and PM 2.5, but penalising policies have kept it underutilised

— **Suyash Gupta, DG, Indian Auto LPG Coalition**



EQUITIES

Sebi proposes relaxation for IPO issues

Sebi on Friday proposed to reduce the minimum offer size in an initial share-sale, whereby companies with a post-issue capital of above Rs 10,000 crore would be required to offer at least 5% stake in IPO. The regulator recommended that MPS of 10 should be achieved in 18 months by such issuers.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.59	South	
Euro	92.52	African Rand	5.53
UAE Dirham	22.24	Hong Kong Dollar	11
Thai Baht	2.81	Japanese Yen	0.82
British Pound	102.37	New Zealand Dollar	53.92
Australian Dollar	56.77	Saudi Riyal	21.74
Canadian Dollar	59.58	Swedish Krona	9.92
Swiss Franc	84.75	Singapore Dollar	57.96

DELHI SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

India Yamaha's new initiative

India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt. Ltd on Friday announced the introduction of the “color customisation option” for its exciting range of MT 15 motorcycles in India which is currently available for booking. The campaign, named as “customize your warrior”, which is in line with the company's brand strategy was launched from November 20 across the country. The new MT aspirants can avail the option of building colours for their MT-15 by choosing from 11 unique combinations. The vehicles will be made by Yamaha based on the order received from the customers. Delivery will start from Jan 2021. Yellow color wheel model will start delivery from Mar 2021.

Trane unveils new range

Trane announced a new range of air cleaning solutions in India. The solutions apply advanced technologies to help reduce pathogens and other contaminants in indoor environments, including particles, gases and viruses. The technologies are PCO+UVGI (PhotoCatalytic Oxidation+ UltraViolet Germicidal Irradiation), high voltage electrostatic filtration, and Trane Catalytic Air Cleaning System (TCACS). These innovative solutions will help people get back to offices and popular hangout places like malls and restaurants with added safety and comfort during the pandemic. They are useful for both new buildings and retrofits in a wide range of environments, such as business centers, healthcare facilities, offices, educational institutes, and industrial sites. The solutions can be installed in multiple ways, such as plug-in mounting, internal and external full cross-section.

RBI to raise promoters' holding bar

Panel moots to hike cap on stake from 15% to 26% in pvt banks

MUMBAI

AN internal working group set up by the RBI has proposed to raise the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current 15 per cent to 26 per cent in 15 years. The group has also recommended that large corporate or industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after amendments to the Banking Regulation Act and strengthening of the supervisory mechanism for conglomerates including consolidated supervision.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had constituted the internal working group (IWG) on June 12, 2020, to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks. The central bank released the groups' report on Friday.

The terms of reference of the IWG inter alia included a review of the eligibility criteria for individuals/entities to apply for banking license; examination of preferred corporate structure

Large NBFCs with an asset size of Rs50,000 cr and above may be considered for conversion into banks. However, it's subject to completion of 10 years of operations

BANKING ON NEW NORMS

RBI on June 12, 2020, set up internal working group to review extant ownership guidelines



Central bank released groups' report on Friday

It reviewed eligibility criteria for individuals/entities for banking license

Strengthening of supervisory mechanism

Minimum initial capital requirement for licensing new banks should be enhanced from Rs 500 cr to Rs 1,000 cr for universal banks and from Rs 200 cr to Rs 300 cr for small finance banks

for banks and harmonisation of norms in this regard and review of norms for long-term shareholding in banks by the promoters and other shareholders. On eligibility of promoters, it said large corporate/industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulations Act-1949 to deal with connected lending and exposures between

the banks and other financial and non-financial group entities. It also made a case for the strengthening of the supervisory mechanism for large conglomerates, including consolidated supervision.

The panel also suggested well run large non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of Rs50,000 crore and above, including those

owned by a corporate house, may be considered for conversion into banks - subject to completion of 10 years of operations. It recommended the minimum initial capital requirement for licensing new banks should be enhanced from Rs 500 crore to Rs 1,000 crore for universal banks and from Rs 200 crore to Rs 300 crore for small finance banks.

SENSEX REGAINS FOOTING AS BANK STOCKS SPURT

BSE Sensex adds 282 points; Markets weekly rise

MUMBAI

EQUITY indices resumed their upward trajectory on Friday after a day's pause as banking, finance and telecom counters saw robust demand amid mixed global cues.

A recovering rupee and unabated foreign fund inflows added to the momentum, traders said. After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 282.29 points or 0.65 per cent higher at 43,882.25. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 87.35 points or 0.68 per cent to close at 12,859.05. Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 9.13 per cent, followed by Titan, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Bank, Bharti Airtel, Nestle India, NTPC and HDFC Bank. Bharti Airtel fin-



ished 3.18 per cent higher after Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers announced the completion of their merger deal to create a mega tower company.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Sun Pharma, ONGC, Axis Bank, HUL and L&T were the losers, skidding up to 3.72 per cent. During the holiday-shortened

week, Sensex rose 439.25 points or 1.01 per cent, while Nifty advanced 139.10 points or 1.09 per cent.

“Domestic equities gained amid mixed global cues. A sharp rebound in heavyweight financials on news pertaining to government may be considering corporate and foreign bank participation in privatization of select PSBs led market to move higher.

“Additionally, buying momentum in mid-cap and small-caps remained visible in the backdrop of improved prospects of earnings improvement. We continue to maintain our cautiously optimistic approach about the market as underlying strength of markets remains intact,” said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Gland Pharma shares make strong debut

NEW DELHI

MAKING a stellar debut, shares of Gland Pharma Ltd on Friday surged over 21 per cent on the bourses compared to its issue price.

After opening on a strong note, the scrip settled with 7 per cent gain on the BSE and the NSE when compared with the opening level. On the BSE, the shares opened at Rs 1,701 apiece, a gain of over 13 per cent compared to the issue price of Rs 1,500. The stock touched an intra-day high of Rs 1,850 and ended the day at Rs 1,820.45.

Similar trends were witnessed on the NSE where the scrip listed at Rs 1,710 and touched an intra-day high of Rs 1,850. The opening price was 14 per cent more as compared to the issue price. It closed at Rs 1,828. Compared to the issue price of Rs 1,500 apiece, the scrip ended the day with a gain of more than 21 per cent on both the bourses. The price band for the initial public offer (IPO), which closed earlier this month, was fixed at Rs 1,490-1,500 per share.



WIPRO

Reprioritisation of biz strategy in focus

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA
BENGALURU

THE strategic rejig by Wipro under the leadership of its new chief executive officer (CEO) Thierry Delaporte is a step in the right direction,

but execution holds the key to get the desired outcomes. According to analysts, a simplified operating model, strengthening of sales muscle, and focus on large deals that have potential to accelerate the revenue growth of Wipro. Also, reprioritisation of Wipro with a focus on a few verticals in Europe and Middle East, can augur well for the IT firm's growth.

“Under the new leadership, the changes proposed by Wipro are in the right direction. Especially, emphasis on large deals, client mining, simplification of operating structure with lesser number of P&L heads, and focus on increasing the share of digital revenue have the potential to take the

company in its growth phase,” said Sanjeev Hota, head (research) at Sharekhan, a Mumbai-based brokerage firm. “However, we have to wait and watch that how the company executes on these key strategies, which will de-



IT major's new CEO Thierry Delaporte plans to simplify operating structure by strengthening sales force

termine the outcome,” he added. In the recent analyst meet, Wipro's new CEO presented a blueprint for driving the future growth in the Bengaluru-headquartered company, which has not been able to match revenue growth numbers with its bigger peers during past years. With Delaporte at the helm, the IT firm is now planning to take a number of steps- both organisational and market-related issues in order to accelerate growth prospects.

Ankura opens new branch

HYDERABAD

ANKURA Hospital, a super specialty hospital chain dedicated to women and children in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with seven Centres at Hyderabad and Khammam, has launched its 9th centre in the temple town of Tirupati.

This high-tech hospital boasts 40 bedded New-born ICU, 20 bedded paediatric ICU with more than 10 qualified paediatricians. Dr Krishna Prasad, MD, Ankura Hospitals, said: “We are happy and proud to be in the temple city of Tirupati. Ankura Hospital is equipped with latest technology, trained medical professionals and equipment that will be beneficial for the people in and around Tirupati offering best medical services for Women & Children.”

REAL CORNER

Credai Hyderabad welcomes TS-bPASS

HANS BUSINESS

THE Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai), Hyderabad, hailed the Telangana Government for launching Telangana State Building Permission Approval and Self Certification System (TS-bPASS) portal for building and layout permissions, in a transparent, time-bound manner.

TS-bPASS is a new reform introduced by Telangana State, doing away with endless wait and bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining building permissions, making approval more user-friendly by providing a streamlined online system for hassle-free, time-bound speedy approvals. Credai Hyderabad played a pivotal role in the formulation of the policy, with a thorough evaluation and inputs from all stakeholders for the smooth execution of TS-bPASS, P Ramakrishna Rao, president, Credai Hyderabad

The TS-bPASS was a self-certification system to make citizens responsible and ensure that they adhere to the building and layout permission rules of the State government. As per the new law, people constructing a building within 75 sq. yards land need not obtain any permission from the authorities concerned. However, they must register with the urban local body using TS-bPASS. Similarly, citizens can obtain in-



V Rajashekar Reddy, General Secretary, and P Ramakrishna Rao, president, Credai Hyderabad

stant permission for constructions to an extent of 75 sq. yards to 600 sq. yards through self-certification under TS-bPASS and commence their construction work.

The authorities concerned will examine the applications seeking permissions for building constructions in an area of more than 600 sq. yards and issue necessary permissions within 21 days.

“We welcome the launch of TS-bPASS, a pioneering initiative by the state government to provide, a single-window approval process for the real estate sector,” said V Rajashekar Reddy, General Secretary, Credai Hyderabad.

Reddy further said, “We are extremely delighted at the series of measures taken by the Government of Telangana to help the real estate sector over the last few months.”

Housing sales likely to fall 40-50% this financial year

However, demand for residential properties recovered in the past couple of months: Crisil

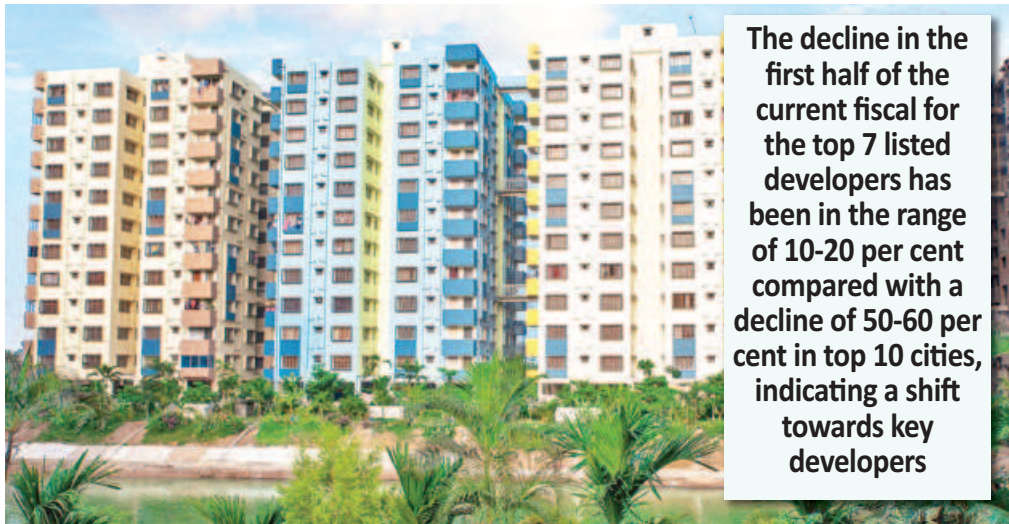
Although demand for residential properties has recovered in the past couple of months to pre-pandemic levels, the overall primary sales is likely to fall 40-50 per cent in the top 10 cities during the current financial year, according to a Crisil report.

The report noted that, while the overall rebound in real estate demand in October was faster than envisaged earlier, its sustenance post the festive season will be ‘monitorable’.

“On full-year basis, we estimate overall primary sales to witness a decline of 40-50 per cent in top 10 cities. With ‘ready to move’ inventory constituting 10-20 per cent of the total inventory in key cities and upcoming supply this fiscal at similar levels, capital values are likely to remain under pressure at least for the rest of this fiscal,” it said.

The decline in the first half of the current fiscal for the top 7 listed developers has been in the range of 10-20 per cent compared with a decline of 50-60 per cent in top 10 cities, indicating a shift towards key developers.

This trend was visible before the pandemic struck and is estimated to continue over the second half, it said.



The decline in the first half of the current fiscal for the top 7 listed developers has been in the range of 10-20 per cent compared with a decline of 50-60 per cent in top 10 cities, indicating a shift towards key developers

“New home sales have seen a surprise surge in the last couple of months, making the pandemic-led disruption look like a mere blip. Indeed, units sold in Mumbai and the rest of Maharashtra are 1.1-1.3 times higher compared with January this year,” it said. The spurt rides on supportive measures from governments of key states. Maharashtra has reduced stamp duty from 5 per cent to 2 per cent up to December 2020 and to 3 per cent for January-March 2021.

Karnataka, too, has reduced

stamp duty from 5 per cent to 3 per cent for properties priced between Rs 21 lakh and Rs 35 lakh.

Affordability across India's top-10 cities has improved by up to 35 per cent over the past five years, given favourable interest rates and reduction in property prices. In addition, reduction in stamp duty has supported affordability improvement this fiscal.

Among major cities, affordability improvement in MMR, NCR and Pune is higher than in comparable metros such as Ben-

galuru and Hyderabad because of pricing pressure.

“A favourable, buyer-centric market has created an opportunity for first-time homebuyers and fence-sitters as well as resale flat buyers. Renewed interest of non-resident Indians in sales is also being observed,” the report said.

Quarterly results of key listed players indicate that the fiscal second quarter saw better-than-envisaged growth. And in most cases, bookings for these players touched pre-Covid levels.

Kalpataru to invest ₹350 cr over next 3 yrs

NEW DELHI

REALTY firm Kalpataru Ltd will invest Rs 350 crore over the next three years to develop a premium housing project in Mumbai as it sees revival in demand supported by lower home loan interest rates and property prices.

Kalpataru Ltd, which is part of diversified business house Kalpataru group, on Friday said it has started the second phase of its housing project ‘Kalpataru Vienta’ in Kandivali (East), Mumbai. The company will build more than 200 housing units in the second phase of this project. The construction work will start this month and possession is expected in early 2024.

“Nearly 5 lakh sq ft area will be developed in the current phase at an estimated cost of Rs350 crore,” Kalpataru Ltd said in a statement. The prices for 2BHK start at Rs 1.7 crore, while prices for 3BHK start at Rs 2.4 crore. Kalpataru Vienta is spread across 2.4 acres. The first phase comprising over 170 units was launched in January 2020.

“Customer confidence has witnessed a strong turnaround on the back of interest rate softening, schemes and strong policy support for the homebuyer. With average saving in the range of 8-10 per cent for the homebuyer, prices have hit a historic low, making this the best time to invest in real estate,” Kalpataru Ltd MD Parag Munot said.

Allow Central job aspirants to take test in mother tongue: CM to PM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Friday shot off a missive to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding to allow the job aspirants to attempt the competitive exams conducted by the Union government in their mother tongue, Telugu language. The CM also wrote another letter to President Ram Nath Kovind requesting to issue a commemorative postal stamp in memory of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.

He brought to the notice of Prime Minister that all the competitive exams for recruitment to posts in the Central sector, including Public Sector Undertaking, Railways, De-



The Chief Minister also writes letter to President Ram Nath Kovind requesting to issue a commemorative postal stamp in memory of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao

fence, national banks are held in only two languages – English and Hindi. The students who do not study in English medium or those who are not from Hindi-speaking States are facing disadvantage in the selection process.

Equal and fair opportunities should be provided to the stu-

dents from all States, KCR said, requesting Modi to permit the candidates from non-Hindi speaking States to write the exams in the regional languages. He demanded the UPSC and all other recruitment agencies like Railway Recruitment Board, public sector banks, Reserve Bank of

India and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to conduct the exams in the regional languages.

The Chief Minister requested Kovind to release the stamp in memory of PV Narasimha Rao during his South India sojourn at Hyderabad this year end. He informed the President in the letter that the Centre was planning to bring out a commemorative stamp.

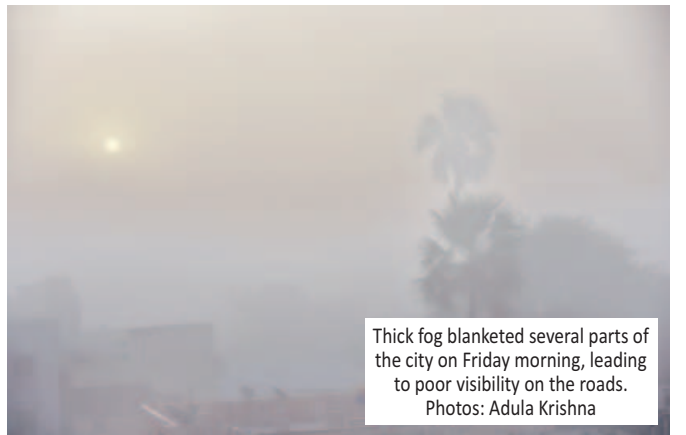
Chandrashekar Rao explained PV's contribution to the country in various capacities including as Prime Minister, Union Minister and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during the latter's 50-year political stint. The letter was also forwarded to Union IT and Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

LOW PRESSURE IN BAY OF BENGAL BY NOV 23

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A LOW pressure area is likely to form over the Central parts of south Bay of Bengal around November 23, under the influence of a cyclonic circulation lying over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining south-east Bay. The IMD bulletin said on Friday that the low pressure area is likely to concentrate into a depression over the south-west Bay and move westnorth-westwards towards the Sri LankaTamil Nadu coast during subsequent 48 hours.

Meanwhile, the night temperatures in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Friday, registered an appreciable fall ranging from 2.1 to 4 deg C in some parts of Telangana. They rose appreciably in some other areas by 2.1 to 4 deg C at one or two places. The



Thick fog blanketed several parts of the city on Friday morning, leading to poor visibility on the roads. Photos: Adula Krishna

temperatures were markedly above normal by 5 deg C or more at one or two places and appreciably above normal by 3.1 to 5 deg C at most places in the State.

The IMD bulletin said the lowest minimum temperature of 18.6 deg C was recorded in Dundigal. The other tempera-

tures elsewhere in the State were: Hyderabad (19.4), Hakimpet & Medak (19.6) each, Bhadrachalam & Nalgonda (20) each, Mahbubnagar (20.5), Ramagundam (21), Adilabad & Hanamkonda (21.5) each, Nizamabad (21.8), and Khammam (23).

GMRVF relief kits for flood-hit



HYDERABAD

THE GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) after identifying a few majorly flood-affected localities in City distributed 300 relief kits to families on November 10, 11 and 12 of Hanumannagar, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Ambicanagar, Chandrayangutta and Chaderghat.

The kits included ration, along with utensil set and couple of Solapur bedsheets. The foundation had provided cooked food packets to the rain-affected families last month. Around 1,000 packets were distributed in Alingar and Chaderghat. During the lock down also it had arranged cooked food and ration kits to migrant workers.

Cost of Covid tests in pvt labs may go down further: Eatala

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE cost of Covid-19 tests in private labs may go down further in near future from the current level of Rs 850 as fixed, hinted Health Minister Eatala Rajender. The cost of the RT-PCR, a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test was costing thousands till now in those private labs.

"We never wanted to permit private labs to test Covid as they charge exorbitantly. But because of various reasons, we were compelled to permit them. The prices were beyond the reach of common people. Now we have brought it down to Rs 850 just a few days ago and it might go down further in next few days, may be 10 days or more," he informed, while addressing at a panel discussion on 'Safe re-opening of schools after Covid lockdown' at Hitex.

The panel discussion was organised by TRSMA (Telangana Recognised School Management



- The Health Minister takes part in the panel discussion organised by Telangana Recognised School Management Association
- Assures TRSMA that the government will take a suitable decision in the larger interest of everybody
- Says Ayurveda's extensive knowledge based on preventive care helped many during home quarantine



Association) as part of the ongoing three-day hybrid exhibition PHIC (Preventive Healthcare & Infection Control Expo)-2020 here in the city on Friday.

Addressing 200 plus correspondents of private schools who are members of TRSMA, the Minister said the intensity of the corona has come down. "But the whole world is currently discussing the second wave. Some of the countries have been experiencing the fresh wave of corona attack. Though I am not an expert on the subject, personally feel

that there may not be a second spell of the dreaded virus in India and Telangana also," he said.

In the initial stages of corona, some people used to be test positive even for 35 days of infection and they had to be quarantined that many more days. But, subsequently, ICMR eased out those restrictions. Now, most are home quarantined. Thanks to our ancient wisdom, our homes have turned into Ayurvedic hospitals. We have been able to take care of ourselves to the great extent with home remedies. Ayurveda, being

the science of life, that propagates the gifts of nature in maintaining healthy and happy living has been helpful to many to take care of themselves. Ayurveda's extensive knowledge based on preventive care helped many at the home quarantine, the Health Minister added.

Touching upon the subject of the panel discussion on reopening the schools, Eatala said, "We all know that no parent wants their children to sit back at home without going to school for a very long time. At the same time, they

can't run the risk. We need to take a very careful decision. Though online lessons are helping to certain extent, children with mobile phones in hand get exposed to unwanted things, which again is not good in the larger interest of the society. It will be difficult to exercise control on their usage."

The Minister has assured TRSMA, the body of 10,000 private budget schools representing 33 lakh students and 5 lakh teaching staff, that their concerns would be taken to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and assured that the government would take a suitable decision in the larger interest of everybody.

The Minister also inspected 50 plus stalls put up in India's first of kind Hybrid expo being organised by Hitex, in support with TRSMA, IFCAI, TSFMC, HYSEA and many other organisations with a single objective to showcase innovative products, solutions, services and learn best practices adopted from each other for a smooth transition and better preparedness for the new normal life.

KTR, Kavitha take on rivals on social media

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TRS Working President KT Rama Rao and party MLC K Kavitha have embarked on a war against their political rivals directly on social media. The two leaders took to twitter against the rivals who are making objectionable comments against the party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and the TRS government.

KTR took strong exception to BJP state unit President B Sanjay's comments against KCR who was branded as traitor. In a sharp reaction on his twitter handle, the TRS leader said that, "Making baseless comments that CM has links to terrorist outfits is stooping to a new low and most reprehensible rhetoric. Let's fight elections like how

they should fought without making absurd, illogical and ridiculous comments."

The TRS second in command is leaving no stone unturned to corner his political rivals who made baseless allegations against the party and the leaders on social media. Kavitha was also active and responding to the tweets made by Congress and BJP leaders, she warned AICC in-charge Manickam Tagore who posted a comment against TRS. The TRS MLCs asked the leader to use words carefully. In a tweet, Tagore had said "Whenever Modi-Shah need your help in Rajya Sabha, you will help them, but organise a conclave? Do you think the Opposition leaders who are fighting the Modi-Shah can be confused? Chandrasekar-Naveen-Jagan are the ATM (anytime Modi) supporters!

Chandrasekar can't fool all."

Replying to his tweet, Kavitha said: "In the last session of Lok Sabha when TRS MPs were fighting against d farm bills, your party MPs had to come & stand with Us. TRS is people's voice & KCR is a fighter! When he decides to fight, your leadership might ask you to go to the conclave! Pls choose your words carefully Sir." She also lambasted the Congress for lodging a complaint with State Election Commission against the distribution of Rs 10,000 to flood victims in Hyderabad.

TRS leader Krishank is also busy countering BJP's fake videos on Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms. He is analysing the fake videos circulated by the BJP against the Telangana government in video format.

Welfare works will help TRS win: Talasani

HYDERABAD

MANY TRS candidates, who got B Forms from the party, on Friday submitted their nominations to the returning officers for GHMC polls to be held on December 1. Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav was present along with several local leaders and party functionaries. Among the candidates were Vijaya Reddy (Khairatabad division), Sridevi (Nallakunta), Puja Vyas (Begum Bazar), Sheshu Kumari (Sanathnagar) who filed the nominations in presence of party leaders Danam Nagender, Naradasu Lakshman Rao, Kaleru Venkatesh, among others. Speaking to newsmen later, Talasani expressed confidence that the government welfare programmes would help the TRS party win a majority. "We will win more than 104 of the 150 seats besides the Mayor's post," he asserted.



Ministers Indrakaran Reddy, Niranjana Reddy and Srinivas Goud taking part in Tungabhadra Pushkaralu at Jogulamba Gadwal district on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Ministers Indrakaran Reddy, Niranjana Reddy and Srinivas Goud on Friday inaugurated Tungabhadra Pushkaralu at Jogulamba Gadwal district. The three Ministers have taken a holy dip at the pushkar ghats

near the temple. They offered special puja to mark the occasion amid chanting of vedic hymns by priests and pujaris. The festival of Tungabhadra Pushkaralu will be continued till December 1. The officials have made all required arrangements for the same amid corona pandemic following protocols. Security, facilities are made available at the pushkar ghats and the temples nearby. The Ministers asked devotees to participate in the pushkar by following Covid-19 protocols.

They instructed the officials to provide hassle free facilities and to take bathing and darshan of the deity.

SUDA master plan for villages' development

PV SATYANARAYANA
KHAMMAM

AS many as 46 villages of four constituencies in Khammam district are going to get face lift in the coming days as the Sthambhadri Urban Development Authority (SUDA) is preparing a master plan to develop the villages in all aspects for the next two decades.

People living in these villages are expressing happy for including their villages in SUDA limits. Except a few, almost all the 46 villages were underdeveloped till now, but the SUDA is going to change their scenario, stated K Rama Rao, senior citizen of Raghunadhapalem village. Villages would get roads, drainages, central lighting, drinking water and all other facilities due to their inclusion in SUDA. Land prices will also shoot up and living style will change, observed N Krishna, resident of Wyra town.

The Master Plan will help to spur the growth of Khammam city and its surrounding areas that fall under SUDA, spread over an area of 557.5 square yards, said SUDA Chairman Bachu Vijay Kumar.

The Centre for Symbiosis of Technology, Environment and Management (STEM) is preparing the data of Khammam to develop the Master Plan based on geographic information system (GIS) mapping. The survey data will be collected regarding land-use, roads, traffic and transportation, streetlights, drainage, water resources and infrastructure facilities and others. A format with 18 questions is being used for the survey.

Earlier Master Plan prepared for Khammam municipality will expire in December. Hence the new Master Plan to address future development needs of the city and its people is being drafted, Vijay Kumar said.

The new draft Master Plan is likely to be notified by Sankranthi festival for receiving public objections and suggestions. The final notification will take place in March 2021, he added.

The draft Master Plan will comprise data on industrial, residential, commercial, recreation zones and the widening of roads wherever it is required will be proposed. The data from various government departments is being collected, he added.

Kavitha calls DS a disgruntled leader

The MLC informs that the Nizamabad unit has recommended his suspension from party and the State party has to take a decision on this

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

EVEN as the TRS MP D Srinivas has been challenging the party to take action against him, MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Friday said that taking no action was also an action.

In an informal interaction with the media, Kavitha said that there was need to talk about the disgruntled leader. The Nizamabad unit has recommended his suspension from the party and the State party has to take a decision on this. However, 'taking no action was also an action', said Kavitha.

Kavitha said that the Congress party had become a regional party now. "The Congress was no more a national party, it was now the 'Indian National Party'. The party literally died in Nizamabad,

- Congress now a regional party
- Says several organisations back KCR's move on conclave
- To attend 'Kisan Diwas' event in Punjab on Nov 23

she said. The TRS leader said that there was a good response to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's decision to have a conclave of non-BJP and non-Congress parties in the city during December second week. She said that apart from the political parties, the farmers' organisations, trade



unions also came in support. The TRS leader has been invited to attend a meeting on the 'Kisan Diwas' on December 23 in Punjab.

She said that there was a need to fight against the anti-farmer and anti-people policies of the Centre. The main focus of the party would be on this and a mass movement was necessary. Talking on the disinvestments in pub-

lic sector units, she lashed out at the BJP leaders alleging that the BJP was trying to sell heritage properties to run the show.

She also alleged that the safe-front party leaders were talking lies for votes. "We got to know that the BJP is trying to up an organisation which will create more fake news. The TRS party is strong at the grassroot level and it is preparing to counter the fake news," said Kavitha. On the question of supporting the Acts brought by the Centre, she said that the party supported the Government of India, but not BJP.

Replying to a question on who would be second in GHMC, Kavitha said that the difference between TRS and opposition parties was big and the party would win Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election with a majority of seats.



Ticket frenzy

Two ODIs & three T20Is sold out in one-day

MELBOURNE

TICKETS for five of the upcoming six limited-overs fixtures between Australia and India beginning next week, have been sold out in less than a day after being released, Cricket Australia informed on Friday.

The limited-overs series will begin with the three ODIs from November 27. Limited tickets to the first ODI at the SCG, however, remain with approximately 1,900 public seats left.

Tickets for the four matches at the Sydney Cricket and two at Canberra's Manuka Oval went on sale to the general public on Friday morning and by midday the only seats up for grabs were for the first ODI at the SCG.

It should be noted that both SCG and Manuka Oval will be at 50 per cent capacity for the series due to restrictions put in place amid Covid-19 pandemic.

"The second and third ODIs at the SCG and Manuka Oval respectively have been exhausted while the Manuka Oval T20I and two SCG T20Is are sold out," Cricket Australia said in a release. "Both the SCG and Manuka Oval will be at 50 per cent capacity for series, with fans voting with their feet after ticket prices were frozen from the last time India came to Australia in 2018/19," it added.

Following the limited-overs leg, the two teams will contest in the much-anticipated four-Test series beginning December 17 at the Adelaide Oval. (ANS)

MUMBAI

FORMER left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan believes bowlers will decide the fate of this summer's India-Australia contest as both the teams boast of some of the world's finest bowlers in their squads.

The Indian cricket team is currently in Australia for a full series that includes three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals followed by a four-Test rubber. The tour will start with the ODIs here on Nov. 27. With the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami, Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, to name a few, up their ranks, both India and Australia have formidable bowling attacks.

"The Australian pitches have always had good bounce and pace, so I think the area which will decide the ODIs, T20Is and Tests will be the bowlers and how well the team bowls as a unit to restrict the opponent to a lower total on the scoreboard," said Zaheer, who was part of the 2011 World Cup winning Indian team.

"When someone talks about the top line bowlers in the world right now, the names of the players that come to our mind will all be on the pitch in this series," he added. Zaheer also said that India are set to face a stern test in Australia this summer due to the presence of Steve Smith and David Warner.

India had defeated Australia 2-1 in their last Test series Down Under in 2018-19 in the absence of Warner and Smith, as both the players were serving an year-long ban for the infamous ball tampering scandal.

"Now with the return of Steve Smith and David Warner to the Australian side, the Indian team is definitely going to face a stiffer competition than their previous tour Down Under," the former India fast bowler

said in a release issued by official broadcasters of the series, Sony Pictures Sports Network.

"There are no favourites going into the series as both the sides have quality batting and bowling line-up in their squad and that is what will make the upcoming tour interesting and exciting to watch."

Zaheer's thoughts were echoed by Australian pace legend Glenn McGrath, who also feels that the Virat Kohli-led side will face a tough competition this time around.

"The Indian cricket team will face a much tougher Australian team now that Smith and Warner are back but the Indian team is equally strong and have an aggressive mentality and determination to win the series," said McGrath, who has staggered 563 Test wickets.

"The current Indian team has got the confidence of playing in Australian conditions now and they know how to do it as they've been successful here in the last tour." Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar too feels the same.

Sony on Friday also announced the return of its show 'Extraa Innings', which will feature former players like McGrath, Manjrekar, Ajay Jadeja, Virender Sehwag, Zaheer, Nick Knight, Mohammad Kaif, Murali Karthik, Vivek Razdan, Ajit Agarkar and Vijay Dahiya apart from Harsha Bhogle, Arjun Pandit and Erin Holland. (PTI)

'Smith's return big headache for India'

NEW DELHI

STEVE Smith's return is a big plus for Australia and a "big headache" for Team India, feels Australia batsman Glenn Maxwell ahead of the blockbuster clash which begins next week.

Smith, along with Warner, was not part of the 2018-19 series against India when Virat Kohli's men won the Test and the ODI series Down Under. The three-match T20I series was tied 1-1 as one of the matches was washed out. However, both Smith and Warner are part of all the three squads which will take on India in the much-anticipated fixtures beginning November 27. Smith was not part of Australia's last ODI series in England because of the concussion he suffered during a net session.

"To have someone like Steve Smith coming back to our side, it is going to be a big plus for us, a big headache for India. Smith has always scored runs against them," Maxwell said during a select media interaction organised by series official broadcasters Sony.

While Australia are slated to have both their star performers for all 10 matches against India, the visitors will be without their star

opener Rohit Sharma in the limited-overs leg of the tour.

Rohit is recuperating from a hamstring injury sustained during the Indian Premier League and is slated to join the Indian team for the Test series. In his absence, KL Rahul will serve as

Virat

Kohli's deputy in the three ODIs and three T20Is.

Maxwell feels Rohit's absence is a big "positive" for the hosts. "He (Rohit) is a class performer, so consistent as an opening batsman with a couple of (three) double hundreds. So anytime he is not in the line-up against you, it is a positive," Maxwell said.

However, he also says that Rahul is as good a back-up as any team can wish for.

"But in saying that, India have still got back-ups, more than capable of playing that role. We saw KL Rahul, the performance that he put on during the last IPL was extraordinary. Whether he opens the batting or not, I am sure he will be just as good a player," he said.

In Rohit's absence, it is likely that Mayank Agarwal will open the innings alongside Shikhar Dhawan while Rahul, who will also be performing the wicket-keeping duties, is expected to bat middle-order.

"Well, I would say they (Mayank-Rahul) are the two lovely guys I have ever met. It was a pleasure to spend the change room (with them), two very good players, they score all-round the wicket and have got very limited weaknesses," Maxwell, who spent time with Mayank and Rahul at the Kings XI Punjab, said.

"I suppose ODI cricket might be a bit different (compared T20). Hopefully, with our bowling attack, we can put some pressure on them and with bounce in the pitches and bigger grounds as well, they play into our hands. They are good performers, and good players," he added.

Maxwell believes Mohammed Shami's skills as both a "new ball and old ball" bowler will be a key for India. "A guy like Mohammed Shami, whom I have played with in the recent IPL and played with him in Delhi, as well. (I) saw the skill that he has."

"He has got good skills at the end (death overs) as well as with the new ball. His ability to get moving on pitches will be a key to them," said

Maxwell. (ANS)

Five ISL clubs exempted by AIFF to play in national events

NEW DELHI

FIVE Indian Super League clubs, which had failed to meet the AFC and national licensing criteria, have been granted exemption by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to participate in national club competitions of the 2020-21 season.

Odisha FC, NorthEast United FC, Kerala Blasters, Hyderabad FC and Sporting Club East Bengal were the five clubs which were not handed licenses by the AIFF to be able to take part in AFC and national competitions this season. However, they will now be able to play in the seventh ISL season which begins on Friday in Goa.

"All 5 clubs SC East Bengal, Odisha FC, Hyderabad FC, Kerala Blasters FC and NorthEast United FC who failed to get the national licence for 2020-21 season, sought an exemption to participate in national club competitions of the 2020-21 season and have received the same from the AIFF's Club Licensing Committee -- First Instance Body with financial sanctions. The committee has also asked the clubs to make rectifications at the earliest," AIFF said in a statement on Thursday.

"No appeals were lodged by any club against the decision of the AIFF's Club Licensing Committee -- First Instance Body," it added.

FC Goa, ATK Mohun Bagan FC, Bengaluru FC, Jamshedpur FC, Chennaiyin FC and Mumbai City FC had earlier successfully secured the AFC and national licences for the 2020-21 season.

A total of 19 clubs had applied for national and AFC club licences for the 2020-21 season, out of which 8 were from I-League and 11 from ISL. (ANS)



New look Mumbai City aiming for fresh start against NorthEast United

VASCO

A revamped Mumbai City FC, with 19 new recruits and a Spanish coach of repute, will be aiming for a positive start in pursuit of a maiden ISL title when they

take on NorthEast United here on Saturday. Mumbai City have never won the coveted trophy and would be hoping that there is a turnaround in fortunes under new coach Sergio Lobera, who had guided FC Goa to a Super Cup win in

2019. Lobera during the pre-season media meet had advocated attacking brand of football but said the team needed to strike a balance between attack and defence. "It is very important to play attacking football. Obviously, we need bal-

ance. In football, it's not possible only to attack, you need balance between attack and defence," Lobera had said.

Mumbai have two good strikers in Bartholomew Ogbeche and Adam Le Fondre who can prove to be more than

handful for any opposition.

The team has roped in utility midfielders like Ahmed Jahouh, England-born Japanese Cy Goddard and their roles as feeders will be important in the larger context of the game. (PTI)

Nadal battles past Tsitsipas to reach semis

LONDON

WORLD number two Rafael Nadal has entered the semi-finals of the ongoing ATP Finals after defeating defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas.

On Thursday, Nadal defeated Tsitsipas 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in two hours and five minutes to make it to his sixth semi-final appearance at the event and continued his pursuit of a maiden title at the year-end championships. The Spaniard tallied a 2-1 record to claim second place in Group London 2020 behind Dominic Thiem.

He will next play Daniil Medvedev in a rematch of the 2019 US Open final.

"(To) be in the semi-finals here, in the last tournament of the year, is an important thing," Nadal said in his on-court interview as per the official ATP Tour website. "(I am) happy for that and I am looking forward to the semi-finals against Daniil (Medvedev)."

Last year, Nadal had defeated Tsitsipas in the final round-robin match, but the lefty was still ousted from the tournament. This time, he only needed a win to move on, and despite a slip at the end of the second set, he emerged victorious to extend his head to head lead against the Greek to 6-1.

"I still won two matches like last year," Nadal said. "Last year, I was a little bit unlucky not to be in the semi-finals. The year before I had to pull out. It is always difficult to play here against the best players in the world every single day (at the) end of the season. Most of the time, you get here a little bit tired, but this year is a little bit different...I am just excited to be in the semi-finals and I hope to be ready to try my best," he added. (ANS)

ATP Finals

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after losing a point to Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece

ATK Mohun Bagan get off to a winning start in ISL season 7

BAMBOLIM

Sandesh Jhingan of ATKMB and Ritwik Kumar Das of KBFC in action during the Hero ISL 7 season opener at GMC Stadium, Goa



ATK Mohun Bagan began their campaign on a winning note by scraping past Kerala Blasters FC 1-0 at the GMC Stadium Bambolim, Goa on Friday.

After being the dominant side in the first 45, ATKMB started the second on the back foot. KBFC looked more threatening and came out with attacking intent. The designated home side though lacked the final product in the attacking third. KBFC were made to pay for it as Roy Krishna's poacher goal in the 67th minute sealed the win for ATKMB.

The seventh edition of the Indian Super League (ISL) football became the first major sports competition to kick off since the Covid-induced lockdown in March, and Nita Ambani, founder chairperson of Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which operates the league, welcomed its resumption.

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