



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



JD(U) National President and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar presents the membership slip to former DGP Gupteshwar Pandey as he joins the party, in Patna on Sunday



Ticket seekers gather inside Janta Dal (United) office to submit their bio-data for Bihar Assembly elections, in Patna on Sunday



In this file photo, dated April 26, 2019, is seen Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Shiromani Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal, Home Minister Amit Shah in Varanasi



President Donald Trump adjusts the microphone after he announced Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court, in the Rose Garden at the White House, on Saturday



An artisan works on a clay idol as part of preparations for the upcoming Durga Puja festival, at Lalbaug in Mumbai, on Sunday



People visit Undavalli Caves as seen on World Tourism Day, at Undavalli in Guntur district, Sunday



Don't know about RaGa but thanks to Modi ji his popularity is growing fast!

Army gets combat-ready for long winter in Ladakh

An endurance test at 5,800 metres on Finger 4 of Pangong Tso

New Delhi: After multiple failed efforts to de-escalate border tensions between India and China, the Indian Army is now gearing up to fight the cold weather as it started planning for winter deployment of troops and equipment.

According to reports, both the countries have at least 50,000 troops each that are backed by tanks, artillery and air defence vehicles along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). As both the Indian Army and Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) facing each other at the height of 5,800 metres on Finger 4, an apparent endurance test is set to take place this winter.

While the winter is expected to take the turn for worse after Diwali this year, the situation on all friction points is a stalemate with PLA accusing the Indian Army of upping the ante south of Pangong Tso on August 29-30 as a result of which their claimed withdrawal plans were scuttled.

The situation along the



Indian Army personnel set up camp at an unknown location in Siachen Glacier



The Centre on Sunday released a video of Indian Army tanks and armoured personnel carriers in forward locations in eastern Ladakh, amid the ongoing border stand-off with China. T-90 and T-72 tanks along with BMP-2 Infantry Combat Vehicles, which can operate at temperatures up to a minus 40 degree Celsius can be seen in the video. The tank formation is near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Chumar-Demchok area in Eastern Ladakh

1,597-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh continues to be tense but under control with a small detachment of Indian Army facing off a

PLA detachment on Gogra Hot Springs or patrolling point 17 A. The situation on the north bank of Pangong Tso is that a small number of

troops on both sides are at the Finger 4 height with PLA stationed behind finger 6 and Indian Army on finger 3.

Continued on Page 5

Tension in Himalayas

After Rohtang, focus now on Shinku La tunnel

The safest, shortest route for Indian Army to reach Ladakh

Manali: Amid the heightened border tension with both China and Pakistan in the Himalayas, road infrastructure projects have been given a push with completion of a marvel of engineering motorways -- the Rohtang Pass highway tunnel. Officials say the focus now is on constructing the strategic 13.5-km-long Shinku La tunnel, the shortest, safer and the third alternative corridor for the armed forces for forward areas of Union Territory of Ladakh. Continued on P5



Farm Bills for farmers' welfare: Modi

All 3 agri Bills get Prez nod

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the three contentious agricultural Bills that were passed in the Parliament amid protests by opposition parties. The President signed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, into law on September 24 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill on September 26. The Law Ministry has notified all the three Bills which are now laws. Many opposition parties including the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which was then part of the ruling alliance, urged the President not to sign the bills after they were passed by the Parliament.

New Delhi: Hailing the contribution of Indian farmers in Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that they would benefit too from the new agriculture-related Bills.

He pointed out growers had benefited after fruits and vegetables were taken off the ambit of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act in 2014 and now other farmers would benefit too. They would be



able to send their produce wherever they want and also get good price, the Prime Minister added while ad-

ressing the nation in the 69th edition of his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat'. Continued on Page 5

WAR ON DENGUE



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal clears stagnant water during the anti-dengue campaign to raise awareness on vector-borne diseases, in New Delhi on Sunday

NCDC sanctions ₹19,444 cr to states for MSP operations

New Delhi: The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), the apex financing organisation of the Union Agriculture Ministry, has sanctioned as first tranche, funds amounting to Rs 19,444 crore to the states of Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Telangana for kharif paddy procurement in 2020-21 under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, said the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Sunday in a statement.



SAFE FESTIVE OFFERS TO WOO CUSTOMERS

PATAN AFZAL BABU

Hyderabad: Big malls and giant cloth showrooms in the Greater Hyderabad limits are working out new strategies to beat the slump in their revenues due to the corona pandemic between Dasara and Sankranti. The mega malls are working on new ideas promising a new shopping experience to the people so that they can wean them away at least to some extent from online shopping and increase the footfalls and give a boost to their business.

Continued on Page 5

- ▶ **Malls devise new strategies to increase footfalls**
- ▶ **Tying up with cab service providers to ferry customers**
- ▶ **Taking all SOPs to prevent spread of corona**
- ▶ **Innovative slot bookings to customise shopping visits**
- ▶ **This makes merchants to serve focussed groups**
- ▶ **Making effective service procedure at food counters**
- ▶ **Want to give safe festival shopping experience to all**

Dissent against use of violence was overruled in WA groups

New Delhi: An alleged conspiracy that resulted into full blown riots in the national capital earlier this year is said to have been a coordinated effort of many, however, the charge sheet filed in the case also highlights the fact that there were at times voices of dissent within the groups. These voices against violence though were crushed then and there.

According to the statement of one of the accused in the chargesheet, on the intervening night of February 16-17, a secret meeting was called at Chand Bagh after it was confirmed that US President Donald Trump was all set to come to India.

Apart from accused Athar, the meeting was also attended by Gulfisha, Natasha, Devangana, Salim Malik and some others. Though Owais Sultan was not called to the meeting, he still joined. Many of the attendees were collectively of the view that the government has to be brought down to its knees and for that they could do anything and everything, the charge sheet shows.

According to Athar's statement in the charge sheet, while the meeting was on, Gulfisha said that it was the right time to take the protest to a next level and the Chakka Jaam (road-block) strategy shall be exe-

DELHI RIOTS



cuted in the national capital. Gulfisha had said that first, Chakka Jaam would take place and then it would be taken to

the next level i.e. violent protests. Opposing that, Owais Sultan had said that this would cause problem to the people

and would also result in violence and riots but no one paid heed to Sultan's words. In fact, the other attendees supported the violence and had said "Thodi bohot hinsa (violence) toh chalti hai".

It was also decided that the protestors would be directed to keep red chilli powder, sticks, stones etc, in the tent so that it could be used later as weapons. Sultan again opposed these but was overruled again. He had made his objection public in the DPSG WhatsApp group but again overruled, the chargesheet said.

According to the WhatsApp messages of the Delhi Protests

Support Group (DPSG) mentioned in the charge sheet, on February 17 afternoon, when Athar had posted about the meeting that took place the night before in Chand Bagh saying that it failed as some uninvited guests too attended the meeting, Sultan had said that he attended the meeting and the idea of roadblock was opposed by him and many others.

Another member of the group had supported the stand taken by Sultan and stated that "roadblock is the worst form of protest" and the same shall not be adopted. Following which Athar had deleted the message that talked about roadblock.

Womenia

DAUGHTER'S DAY- 27 SEPTEMBER

MAKING NATION PROUD

Daughters are angels sent from above to fill hearts with unending love. With a little support from their loved ones, no doubt they can reach the highest point of success. For the past several decades, there have been many of them who have not only made their parents proud but also the entire nation. With each passing year, they have participated and achieved equal efforts like that of the males.

Kalpna Chawla

Kalpna Chawla was the first woman of Indian origin to go to space. In 2003, Chawla was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster when the spacecraft disintegrated during its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. She is regarded as a national hero in India.

Dr Kiran Bedi

Kiran Bedi is a retired Indian Police Service officer, social activist, former tennis player and politician who is the current Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. She is the first female Indian Police Service officer and started her service in 1972. She remained in service for 35 years before taking voluntary retirement in 2007 as Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development.

Dr Tessy Thomas

Tessy Thomas (born April 1963) is an Indian scientist and Director General of Aeronautical Systems and the former Project Director for Agni-IV missile in Defence Research and Development Organisation. She is the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India.

Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha

Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha MIEE (A Lalitha) was India's first female engineer. Lalitha graduated in 1943 with a degree in electrical engineering - becoming India's first woman engineer. She completed her practical training with a one year apprenticeship in Jamalpur Railway Workshop, a major repair and overhaul facility.

Shafali Verma

In September 2019, she was named in India's Women's Twenty20 International (WT20I) squad for their series

THE HANS INDIA SALUTES AND WISHES ALL THE DAUGHTERS OF THE NATION, 'A VERY HAPPY DAUGHTERS DAY'



against South Africa. She made her WT20I debut for India at the age of fifteen, against South Africa, on 24 September 2019. She was the youngest woman to play for India in a T20I match in November 2019 against the West Indies, became the youngest woman for India to score a half-century in international cricket. Against the West Indies, she scored 158 runs in five matches, and was named the player of the series.

Durga Bai Kamat

Durgabai Kamat was a Marathi actress, who was the first actress of Indian cinema. In the early 1900s, acting in film or theatre was a taboo for women, so much so Dadasaheb Phalke, the father of Indian cinema, had to use male actors to female role in first Indian film, 'Raja Harishchandra', however with its success, female actresses were encouraged, thus he introduced Kamat in his 1913 second movie 'Mohini Bhasmasur' as a leading lady Parvati, while her daughter Kamlabai Gokhale, played the role of as Mohini, thus becoming the first female child actress of Indian cinema.

Pratibha Patil

Pratibha Devisingh Patil is an Indian politician who served as the 12th President of India from 2007 to 2012. A member of the Indian National Congress, Patil is the only woman to have held the office. She previously served as the Governor of Rajasthan from 2004 to 2007.

Indira Gandhi

Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi was an Indian politician and a central figure of the Indian National Congress. She was the first and, to date, only female Prime Minister of India. She served as prime minister from January 1966 to March 1977 and again from January 1980 until her assassination in October 1984, making her the second longest-serving Indian prime minister after her father.

Saina Nehwal

The first Indian badminton player to win an Olympic medal, Saina Nehwal can totally be credited for making the sport so popular in the country. She is the first female and the second Indian shuttler to be ranked first in the world and has been awarded with Arjuna Award, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan for her achievements.

Geeta Phogat

Freestyle wrestler Geeta Phogat became a household name after she won a gold medal in wrestling at the Commonwealth Games (2010), something that has not been done before by any wrestler, male or female. She is also the first Indian female wrestler to have qualified for the Summer Olympics (2012), where she lost out on a bronze.

Sania Mirza

Sania Mirza is an Indian professional tennis player. A former doubles world No. 1, she has won six Grand Slam titles in her career.

Shakuntala Devi

Shakuntala Devi was the first Indian woman mathematician who was also known as human calculator. She has given us mind cracking quick multiplication.

Radhika Nair

Radhika Nair is an Indian fashion model. Radhika Nair is an Indian fashion model. Radhika was the first Indian female model & the first to walk for D e m n a Gvasalia Balenciaga SS17 show in Paris.

Mithali Raj

Mithali Dorai Raj is an Indian cricketer and the captain of the Indian women's national cricket team. A right-handed opening batter, she is often regarded as India's greatest batswoman.

PV Sindhu

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu is an Indian professional badminton player. Having made her international debut in 2009, she rose to a career high ranking of no. 2 in April 2017.

Mary Kom

Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom is an Indian amateur boxer and incumbent Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. She is the only female to become World Amateur Boxing champion for a record six times, the only female boxer to have won a medal in each one of the first seven World Championships, and the only boxer (male or female) to win eight World Championship medals.

Amrita Sher-Gil

Amrita Sher-Gil was a Hungarian-Indian painter. She has been called "one of the greatest avant-garde women artists of the early 20th century" and a "pioneer" in modern Indian art. Drawn to painting from an early age, Sher-Gil started getting formal lessons in the art, at the age of eight.

Sakshi Malik

Sakshi's bronze in wrestling ended India's medal drought at the Rio Olympics, 2016 and that instantly made her an inspiration for billions of Indians. The 2016 Summer Olympics at Rio de Janeiro was quite nightmarish for the Indian contingent, only winning two medals. The silver lining? Both were won by women and Sakshi was one of them. With this feat, she became the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics. Belonging to a family that consisted of wrestlers, Sakshi picked up the sport at the young age of 12.

Rani Rampal

At an age when most children are giving their boards, Rani was representing the country at the (Hockey) World Cup. All of 15 years old at the time, she is now an important part of the team. Rani's breakthrough tournament was Champion's Challenge Tournament where she was adjudged 'the top goal scorer' and the "young player of the tournament."

Deepika Pallikal

Deepika is India's premier squash player, who was the first Indian to break into the top 10 in the PSA Women's rankings. She started getting noticed in 2011, when she won three WISPA (Women's International Squash Players Association) tour titles and attained a career-best ranking of 13th.

Sub Lieutenant Shivangi Singh

She is an Indian pilot serving in the Indian Navy. She became the first female Indian naval pilot on 2 December 2019.

Bachendri Pal

Bachendri Pal is an Indian mountaineer, who in 1984 became the first Indian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. She was awarded the third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan by Government of India in 2019.

Sucheta Kripalini

Sucheta Kripalini, was an Indian freedom fighter and politician. She was India's first woman Chief Minister, serving as the head of the Uttar Pradesh government from 1963 to 1967.

Neerja Bhanot

Neerja Bhanot, Ashoka Chakra was an Indian head purser who died while saving passengers on Pan Am Flight 73 which had been hijacked by terrorists during a stopover in Karachi, Pakistan, on 5 September 1986, just two days before her 23rd birthday.

Gunjan Saxena

Flight Lieutenant Gunjan Saxena is an Indian Air Force (IAF) officer and former helicopter pilot. She joined the IAF in 1994 and is a 1999 Kargil War veteran. She is the only woman to be part of the Kargil War, making her the first woman IAF officer to go to war. She is the first of two women along with Flight Lieutenant Srividya Rajan from the IAF to enter a war zone flying Cheetah helicopters.

Sushmita Sen

Sushmita Sen is an Indian actress and model who was crowned Femina Miss India in 1994 and won Miss Universe 1994 at the age of 18. Sen is the first Indian woman to win the competition and has since primarily worked in Hindi films.

Menaka Guruswamy

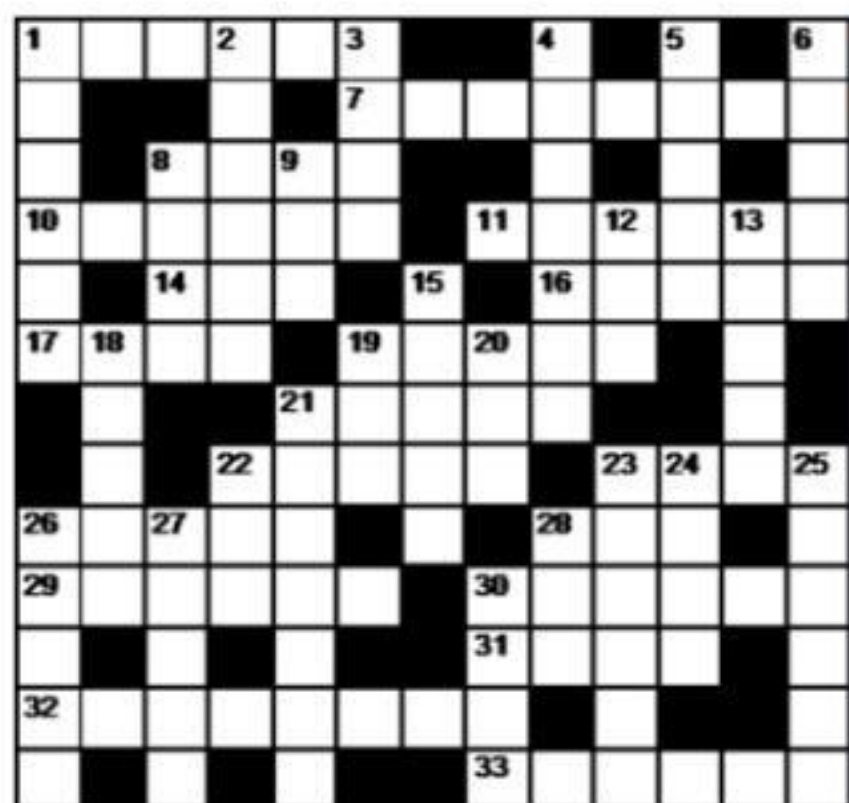
Menaka Guruswamy is an advocate in the Supreme Court of India. She works mostly in constitutional law and criminal law. She has played a very active role in defending a provision in the Right to Education Act, which mandated that all non-minority run private schools admit disadvantaged children.

MS Subbulakshmi

Madurai Shanmukhavadivu Subbulakshmi was an Indian Carnatic singer from Madurai, Tamil Nadu. She was the first musician ever to be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

Durgabai Deshmukh

Popularly known as 'Iron Lady', Durgabai Deshmukh was an energetic and enlivened spirit. A firebrand freedom fighter, a dedicated social worker and an adept lawyer, she had the potential of turning on her magic at the wink of an eye whenever she felt that people and the country needed her.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 26

CROSSWORD

Across

- An Italian brandy (6)
- Short lyric poem (8)
- Norse god of mischief (4)
- Dug into (6)
- Severs or apportions (6)
- Quagmire or marsh (3)
- Watering holes (5)
- Another word for 'girl' (4)
- Appear suddenly (5)
- Lawful colloquially speaking (5)
- Choral work (5)
- Musical staff sign (4)
- Gold coin (5)
- Boxing great (3)
- Picks or chooses (6)
- A quantum of radiant energy (6)
- Apiece (4)
- Old hands (8)
- Set in layers (6)

Down

- The teaching of Christ (6)
- Moon of Mars (6)

- Surrounded by (4)
- Student who withdraws (7)
- Wrinkly tangelos (5)
- A drinking vessel (5)
- Tosses slowly (4)
- Small barrel (3)
- Track circuit (3)
- Curt (5)
- Tennis legend _____ Federer (5)
- Abolish (5)
- A favourite (3)
- Deep hole (3)
- Sweepstake or prize draw (7)
- Family name prefix (3)
- Bell-shaped hat (6)
- Stone: prefix (4)
- Warded off or repelled (6)
- Dig deep (5)
- Scots or Irish (5)
- A cry of joy, it's said (3)
- Nuisance (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 26

TIPS TO REMEMBER WHILE USING DRY SHAMPOO

Typically made with a starch component, dry shampoo is used to eliminate and absorb sebum, the scalp's natural oil that makes hair look greasy after a day or two of no washing. Whether you're using an aerosol spray, powder, or foam dry shampoo, there are some pretty common mistakes we all make that can lead to dandruff-like flakes, ashy roots, and dull and dry hair.

Don't spray too close to your scalp: On dry hair, hold the dry shampoo four to six inches away from the head and spray directly at the roots. You can spray up to 12 inches away from the roots, which allows the oil-zapping starch to properly exit and land evenly on greasy roots.

Only apply where hair is greasy: Don't spray dry shampoo all over your head, just stick to the top couple inches. Chances are that the bottom of your hair isn't greasy, so applying an oil absorber all over can just make your hair stiff and lackluster. Instead, identify the parts of your hair that are oily by sectioning the hair to expose the scalp and roots.

Don't use too much product: When your hair is greasy, a good dose of dry shampoo can make it look fresher, but apply too much and your hair will look dull and discolored. Overusing dry shampoo is a common mistake that can make your hair dry, gritty, and stiff.

Don't use it every day: Using dry shampoo too often can be bad for your hair by clogging your follicles. This weakens hair's strength, potentially leading to hair loss and skin issues like infections, dermatitis, and acne. Instead, give your scalp a chance to breathe between washes.

Pandemic dampens spirits in Agra on World Tourism Day

Agra (IANS): Amid the growing socio-economic uncertainties and health concerns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a new tourist season has begun in Agra but without the fervour and hopes of a revival of the hospitality industry.

The customary celebrations on the World Tourism Day are missing, though after a long break, the Mughal monuments including the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort are now open to tourists.

Hoteliers in the city are hoping for a turnaround in late October, if air connectivity and train mobility normalise. "Right now the international traffic is negligent. Over a dozen five-star hotels in the city depend on

the international clientele. The bookings continue to remain dismal," founder president of Agra Hotels and Restaurants Association Surendra Sharma told IANS.

Agra is India's star tourist destination with three world heritage monuments, the Taj, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, and a dozen other monuments. With the Chambal ravines for adventure, the 101 Shiva temples in a row in Bateshwar, the Sri Krishna-Radha Leela-Bhoomi in Mathura, just 50 kilometres away, Agra attracts close to 10 million visitors annually. The two expressways linking Agra to Lucknow and Noida, have helped boost tourism in the past few years.

The six-month closure of monuments due to the pandemic has proved a healing time, offering much-needed respite to the ageing structures. A lot of maintenance and repair work was done by the Archaeological Survey of India during this period. Even hotels in the city used the forced holiday to streamline facilities and add to their attractions.

"Surely, we see a major benefit and chance of a big leap in the post-pandemic era, once effective medicines or vaccines become available," hopes tourist guide Ved Gautam. Already there has been a huge loss of revenue which different sectors estimate to be around Rs 3,000 crore. The handicrafts sector,

the hotels, travel trade, guides and photographers, restaurants along with the ASI and the Agra Development Authority which used to collect more than Rs 100 crore from ticket sales, have all lost heavily due to the pandemic, says Amit Sisodia of Agra Beats.

Adding to the continuing agony, the widespread grouse that the political leadership has been unfair to Agra by not acceding to longstanding demands like an international airport and air connectivity with all major metros in India, dampens the enthusiasm of the tourism sector.

"Smaller cities have regular flights but not India's number one tourist destination," says Anil Sharma, who

has been spearheading a movement for an international airport at Agra for a long time.

The Supreme Court has so far not been able to decide whether Agra could be declared a heritage city, though a vision document was presented to the apex court two years ago.

"This has created uncertainty as hotels can neither expand nor open new units in the city because of the ad hoc moratorium on industries and expansion of existing units. Then there are a number of categories of industries, which add to the confusion and uncertainty," says Agra Development Foundation Secretary K.C. Jain.



Akalis snapping ties unfortunate: BJP

New Delhi: Described the SAD's decision of snapping ties with the NDA as "unfortunate", Punjab's senior BJP leaders Manoranjan Kalia and Master Mohan Lal on Sunday asserted that the party is able to fight and also win the 2022 Punjab assembly polls alone.

The SAD on Saturday night had announced to quit the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the farm bills issue.

The announcement was made by Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, amid the



stepped up farmers agitation in Punjab over the three farm Bills, recently passed by Parliament amid the Opposition protests.

Reacting to the SAD's decision of breaking ties, BJP's senior leader Manoranjan Kalia said it was unfortunate that they broke a long association.

He said there was a generational change in the Akali Dal as several senior leaders like Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Ranjit Singh Brahmura and Sewa Singh Sekhawan, who used to work with Akali stalwart Parkash Singh Badal, have left the SAD.

"Now, the second generation has taken over and some leaders are more reactive now," said Kalia.

Kalia said the BJP had always tried to accommodate the SAD and cited an example that in 2007, the post of deputy chief minister was given to the alliance partner Akali Dal when the government was formed in Punjab due to the good performance of the BJP in polls.

Woman gang raped in moving bus

Meerut (IANS): A woman passenger was allegedly

gang-raped inside a running bus for entire night on Friday and was later thrown out of the bus. She was found lying unconscious on Delhi Road in Meerut on Saturday and was rushed to the hospital where she later related the traumatic experience.

This is the third such incident in Uttar Pradesh in the last about one month when a woman passenger on way to Delhi was gang raped on a moving bus and, that too, by the staff. The victim, according to reports, told the police that she had boarded a bus from Bhaoli bus stand on Friday night. On the bus, she was given cold drink which had apparently been spiked after which she lost consciousness and was gang-raped by the driver and the conductor through the entire night. The victim is a native of Sardhana town of Meerut district.

Police have recorded the statement of the woman and sent her for medical examination.

SSP of Meerut, Ajay Sahni, confirmed the incident and said that efforts were on to nab the culprits.

He said that they were also taking the help of the CCTV footage to collect evidence and also to help them in identifying the culprits.



SPB had god-gifted voice, a great soul, says Amitabh

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has paid tributes to the legendary SP Balasubrahmanyam, calling the late singer a modest man despite towering achievements.

Balasubrahmanyam, 74, died on Friday after an over two month-long battle with coronavirus.

Writing on his blog on Saturday, Bachchan said SPB, as he was fondly called, had a "God gifted voice".

"In the middle of the work schedule, the mind works at a tangent that brings emotion for the departed - SP Balasubrahmanyam the God gifted voice gone silent. And day on day the very special have left us for the heavens and as they would often say 'to a better place.'"

"The pandemic claims yet another gem, the voice of great divinity and soul," the actor wrote.

A six-time National Award winner, Balasubrahmanyam, who had sung over 40,000 songs, was also honoured with Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma



Bhushan in 2011.

Bachchan, 77, posted a photo of the duo from an old event and said he was fortunate to meet the singer.

"Long years ago at a function I had had the honour of meeting him. A simple, modest human, despite the immense celebrity he was bestowed with."

Balasubrahmanyam was laid to rest at his farmhouse on Saturday with a 24-gun salute by the Tamil Nadu Police.

Bachchan joined the rest of the Indian film and music industry members, including Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, AR Rahman, Kamal Haasan, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ramya Krishnan, and Anil Kapoor in paying rich tributes to Balasubrahmanyam.



Payal Ghosh threatens to go on hunger strike

Mumbai: Actress Payal Ghosh on Sunday said she would resort to a hunger strike if no action is taken against filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, against whom she has raised allegations of rape.

Ghosh told reporters outside Versova police station in Mumbai that Kashyap has not been arrested despite the Mumbai Police registering an FIR against him because he is an "influential person". The actress and her lawyer Nitin Satpute on Sunday reached the police station demanding a quick probe, six days after she filed an FIR against Kashyap accusing him of raping her in 2013. Kashyap had dismissed the allegations as "baseless."

Ghosh said she met senior officials at the police station and threatened to go on a hunger strike "if justice is not delivered quickly." Versova police is probing the case under sections 376 (I) (rape), 354 (outraging modesty of woman), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 342 (wrongful confinement), an official said.

Kashyap's lawyer had earlier tweeted a statement that "my client, Anurag Kashyap, has been deeply pained by the false allegations, these are completely false, malicious and dishonest.

Will fill 10 lakh vacancies soon after returning to power: Tejashwi

Patna (IANS): Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday promised that if his party returned to power after the Bihar Assembly elections, over 10 lakh government vacancies in different departments would be filled within two months. He also accused the Nitish Kumar government of neglecting the youths of Bihar.

"As a result, job scarcity is at its highest in state. He is unable to fill 4.5 lakh vacancies in different departments. Besides, vacant posts of supporting staffs are even more," the Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly told the media here. "If we calculate, over 10 lakh posts



are lying vacant in various departments. Besides, opportunities to create jobs in industries and unorganised sectors are also possible," Tejashwi said.

"As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), one doctor is required for every 1,000 people. Accordingly, 1.25 lakh doctors are required for 12 crore people of the

state. Besides, around 2 lakh support staff like nurses, lab technicians and Group D employees are needed. As many as 50,000 posts of teachers and 75,000 Junior Engineers will be filled. In Bihar police, over 50,000 posts are vacant," he added. He also claimed that law and order in Bihar was at its worse. "When the RJD was part of the state government for 15 months, I was the Deputy CM... the crime graph had gone down during that period." Playing the regional card, Tejashwi said that he had earlier advocated the implementation of the domicile law in Bihar but the Chief Minister did not agree.

Ex-Bihar top cop joins JD(U)

Patna: Former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey, who recently took VRS, joined JD(U) at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's residence in Patna on Sunday. Although the IPS officer, who took VRS less than half a year before he was scheduled to superannuate, has chosen to keep his cards close to the chest, speculation is rife that he may get a ticket from one of the assembly segments in his native district of Buxar. Reports in a section of the media also say that Pandey might be considered for the Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat where a by-poll has been necessitated by the death of sitting JD(U) MP Baidyanath Mahto. The JD(U) draws its support, largely, from among non-Yadav OBCs and Pasmanda Muslims. The party hopes that with the induction of Pandey it may be able to reach out to the Brahmins, traditionally supporters of the Congress who have gravitated towards the BJP of late.

Scuffle among BJP supporters over tickets

Patna(IANS): With political activities picking up after the announcement of dates for Bihar Assembly elections, supporters of an aspirant for BJP ticket on Sunday scuffled with certain party office-bearers over nomination issue.

An ugly situation was created when over 50 supporters of a ticket aspirant prevented Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi's vehicle from moving at the BJP's Patna office and demanded cancellation of sitting MLA Vijay Sinha's candidature for Lakhisarai constituency. They instead wanted the party ticket for Kusum Devi. The protesters held up Sushil Kumar Modi's vehicle for around 10 minutes, with party cadres trying to push them out of the way. As heated arguments erupted, supporters of both sides pushed and shoved each other.

India's corona tally nears 60 lakh

New Delhi (IANS): In the wake of 88,650 more coronavirus cases and another 1,124 COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, India's total tally on Sunday neared the 60-lakh mark.

Of the total 59,92,532 cases, 9,56,402 are still active. As many as 49,41,627 patients were cured and discharged, whereas 94,503 succumbed to the viral disease.

About 75 per cent of the new cases were from 10 states and UTs.

India's recovery rate is 82.46 per cent while the fatality rate has come down to 1.58 per cent, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data said.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with 13,21,176 cases, including 35,191 deaths. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

According to Indian Council of Medical Research data, India conducted 9,87,861 sample tests on Saturday, taking the total tests so far to 7,12,57,836.



Uma Bharti tests positive

Bhopal (IANS): Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Uma Bharti has tested positive for the Coronavirus. She is in quarantine at Vande Mataram Kunj located between Haridwar and Rishikesh in Uttarakhand.

Bharti herself gave this information on Twitter.

"I want to bring it in your notice, that on the last day on my mountain journey I called up a Corona test team following the request by the administration because I had mild fever for last three days. Despite following all legal prohibition for Covid-19 and social distancing at Himalayas I have turned out to be Corona positive," she tweeted late Saturday.

Maha: 2 pvt hospitals fined

Mumbai: A penalty of Rs 1 lakh each has been imposed on two private hospitals in Navi Mumbai for allegedly violating the COVID-19 protocols and treating patients without authorisation, an official said on Sunday.

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation spokesperson Mahendra Konde said Criti Care ICU & Super Speciality Hospital in Airoli and Global 5 Health Care (Kunnure Hospital) in Vashi were issued show-cause notices on September 19, but they did not reply to it in the specified period.

Taking serious note of it, NMMC Commissioner Abhijit Bhargar imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh each on the hospitals in an order issued on Friday, he said.

Jaswanth Singh a great intellectual who rendered stellar service

The veteran politician passed away at the age of 82 early Sunday morning

New Delh (IANS): A soft-spoken man, former BJP leader Jaswant Singh was one of the founding members of the Bharatiya Janata Party and a leading light of the party when Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishan Advani helmed it through the tumultuous period of Indian politics. And with his demise, another party stalwart of that era has passed into eternity.

Given that he had retired as a Major-rank officer from the Indian Army, it was no surprise that he was very punctual in his meetings with different people.

The veteran politician passed away at the age of 82 early Sunday morning at the Army Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi following a cardiac arrest.

Even though he was from an Army background, he not only handled the portfolios of defence, but

also finance and external affairs in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee governments. He was one of the key Ministers who were in the forefront when Vajpayee's government was in power at the Centre at different points in time.

Jaswant Singh, who hailed from Rajasthan, first served as the Union Finance Minister in the shortlived Vajpayee government in 1996. He became the External Affairs Minister in the next Vajpayee-led government (1998-2002). Later, he was again given the charge of finance in 2002. The veteran leader was also Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission at one point in time.

The BJP leader was made the Defence Minister following the res-



ignation of George Fernandes after the latter's name cropped up in a defence scam.

An astute politician, Jaswant Singh hogged media limelight the world over when he was tasked to

hold talks with the Taliban for the release of passengers of an Indian Airlines flight hijacked in December 1999. He even escorted three terrorists, accused of various crimes that included the 2008

Mumbai terror attacks, to Afghanistan to swap in lieu of the safe release of 190 passengers.

After the 1998 nuclear tests by India, Jaswant Singh was deputed by then Prime Minister Vajpayee to engage the US in strategic talks.

After the BJP party lost power at the Centre in 2004 to the United Progressive Alliance, Jaswant Singh served as Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha from 2004 to 2009.

The veteran leader stirred a controversy after the BJP suffered its second successive defeat in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections by circulating a note to demand a thorough discussion on the poll debacle.

He again faced a backlash in

2009 from certain quarters after a book authored by him on Pakistan leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah, entitled 'Jinnah: India-Partition-Independence' was released. He had written sympathetically about the founder of Pakistan. Later, the BJP leader was marginalised within the party and subsequently expelled.

He was reinducted into the party later on, but parted ways in 2014. Jaswant Singh even contested the 2014 Lok Sabha elections as an Independent from Barmer in Rajasthan after failing to get a BJP ticket but lost to the party nominee Colonel Sona Ram.

Soon after the general elections in 2014, Jaswant Singh slipped in the bathroom of his residence on August 7 that year, and suffered a serious head injury.

Condoling the death of the veteran leader, Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi said that he served the nation diligently -- first as a soldier and later during his long association with politics.

"During Atalji's government, he handled crucial portfolios and left a strong mark in the worlds of finance, defence, and external affairs. Saddened by his demise," the Prime Minister said in his message.

"True to his nature, Jaswantji fought his illness with immense courage for the last six years," Modi said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that Jaswant Singh would be remembered for his intellectual capabilities and stellar record in service to the nation. "He also played a key role in strengthening the BJP in Rajasthan. Condolences to his family and supporters in this sad hour. Om Shanti," the Minister said.

Telugu States should provide tourism the much-needed fillip

Working from the comforts of home which was initially considered to be the best option now seems to be losing its charm. When all offices were fully functional and the physical presence of employees was must, the techies used to work during fixed hours. But now it seems to be affecting their psychological resilience. The working hours, Monday to Friday have got extended late into evenings and sometimes to Saturdays. On weekdays, they are not able to log out before 10 pm. They are not able to go out on holiday due to the fear of pandemic. They have lost their weekend outing, they have lost their private time after the office hours and there is hardly any relaxation of mind and body. Boredom seems to have crept into all families

and all sections whether it be students or parents or teens. The excitement of meeting friends virtually over zoom or video calls has also lost its charm. It is time the Centre and the State governments realise that they should focus on the tourism sector which has the potential to get some moolah for the cash strapped governments on account of the slowdown of economy in the last six months. Not that there are no interesting places in the two Telugu States where people could go on holidays packing homemade food, enjoy the beauty of nature and return home safe by evening. But the problem is that most of these places do not have even infrastructural facilities. Many places do not have even proper toilets and dustbins. Telangana has some beautiful places like Anantagiri, Warangal Fort, Adilabad which has highest forest cover in the State with Pranahita and Penganga flowing. We also have Rachakonda Fort near Hyderabad. This place was once the capital for Telangana region. Similarly, there are many interesting tourism spots which are not yet fully

explored by the citizens near Vijayawada, Kadapa, Kurnool and other parts of Andhra Pradesh. Nature has bestowed both the Telugu States with good natural resources. Lack of vision and interest by the successive governments resulted in non-allocation of enough funds for development of tourism sector leading to loss in terms of revenue. Not having vision is only one part. It seems the two governments are not even willing to learn from the success stories of States like Gujarat and Rajasthan for whom tourism is a major revenue earner. Gujarat, despite pandemic conditions, is spending about Rs 500 crore on promotion of tourism. It is using its white desert to earn dollars and rupees. Rajasthan too has succeeded in parking itself on the global tourism map while we are not able to offer anything even to our local tourists. Unless you invest, you cannot earn, that is the basic rule for any business. Let's hope that the two Telugu States will wake up at least now and give due importance to tourism sector and develop it in a professional manner.

Divert farmers to high-value crops

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala

The government has provided that sale of agricultural produce through mandis will no longer be compulsory. Large companies will be able to enter into direct contracts with farmers to buy their produce at predetermined

quantities involved. In this way, the government can stabilise the price and the country will also become free from the inefficiencies of the FCI in bulk storage. There is a need to go farther, however. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is provided to select crops such as wheat, rice and sugarcane. Our farmers have increased the production of these crops because they are assured of a decent price. This success has shifted the farmer's attention away from other crops that could provide higher returns such as vegetables, fruits, timber, flower and orchids because of uncertainty of price in these unsupported crops. We need to move the farmers from low-value MSP crops to high-value market-oriented crops. In particular, it is important to support crops that have a huge international demand such as flowers, organic food and designer vegetables. We have a varied climate from Kerala to Kashmir. It is possible for us to become global flower and vegetable hub and supply these items across the year. The government must work out a system to cover the risk of farmers in cultivation of market-based crops. A subsidised insurance system which covers against price decline would be one option. Also, the government should put in place a programme of research in advanced agricultural technologies such as tissue culture to enable cultivation of these crops.

The government is trying to reduce agricultural subsidies of food, fertilizers, water and diesel. The need is to turn these subsidies towards areas that lead to a multiplier effect. For example, instead of subsidising electricity for extracting groundwater, the same money can be better utilised in providing subsidy for water recharging by building check dams, ponds and anicuts. Public investment in agriculture also needs a close study. Mere building of more canals and increasing area under irrigation will not help because the prices of agricultural crops are declining if we take the inflation into account. Public investment must be fine-tuned to support value-added agriculture. For example, the global demand for organic foods — guavas, mangoes, coffee and tea — is increasing. The government must create a certification mechanism in each district to promote this. Export subsidy may be provided to private exporters of value-added agricultural crops.

We have been asking for the dismantling of domestic agricultural subsidies by the rich countries under the WTO. The idea is that opening of the markets of rich countries will provide opportunities to our farmers. I fully support this approach, but the final benefits of this strategy are doubtful because these mar-



There is a need to go farther, however. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is provided to select crops such as wheat, rice and sugarcane. Our farmers have increased the production of these crops because they are assured of a decent price. This success has shifted the farmer's attention away from other crops that could provide higher returns such as vegetables, fruits, timber, flower and orchids because of uncertainty of price in these unsupported crops. We need to move the farmers from low-value MSP crops to high-value market-oriented crops. In particular, it is important to support crops that have a huge international demand such as flowers, organic food and designer vegetables. We have a varied climate from Kerala to Kashmir. It is possible for us to become global flower and vegetable hub and supply these items across the year. The government must work out a system to cover the risk of farmers in cultivation of market-based crops

kets will be opened not only for us but for other players as well. The resulting increase in supply from other producers can wipe out the gains for us. For example, the entry of Vietnam in coffee and black pepper has wiped out the gains for Indian farmers from free trade in these crops. We should consider an altogether different policy. We must make cartels for specific agricultural commodities just as OPEC has done for oil. India can join hands with Malaysia to increase the world price of rubber; with Bangladesh for jute, with Sri Lanka for tea and Pakistan and Egypt for cotton. This will provide high prices to our farmers. But we may have to come out the WTO in the process which we must consider seriously.

The government is trying to increase the flow of credit to the farmers under the impression that lower interest rates

will provide relief to them. No relief is likely to be got, however. The rural areas are flushed with funds. The credit-deposit ratio of rural banks is typically 15. The loan given out is only Rs 15 for every Rs 100 of deposits garnered by the rural banks. Thus, rural banks have plentiful deposits but few applicants for loans. Farmers have the money but no opportunity to deploy it productively because of absence of profitable opportunities in villages. Expansion of credit will serve no purpose in this situation. It is like pouring tap water into the waterfall. The government must instead focus on promoting specific areas such as floriculture where the profits are high. Need is to make fundamental shifts in the policies.

(The writer is formerly Professor of Economics at IIM, Bengaluru)

Passing of farm Bills a watershed moment in history

RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'

The other day, I was reading the book, Bringing It to The Table: On Farming and Food by Wendell Berry. The author profoundly opens a question. "Why do farmers farm, given their economic adversities on top of the many frustrations and difficulties normal to farming? And always the answer is: "Love. They must do it for love." The sheer love for farming has made agriculture as the largest source of livelihoods in India. The Economic Survey Report of 2019-20 estimates that around 70 per cent of rural households depend principally on agriculture for their livelihood, with 82 per cent of farmers being small and marginal. Agriculture sector plays a vital role in not only in national food security but also for employment, income generation and rural livelihood. But still, unfortunately, the country has witnessed the lack of suitable marketing facilities in the agricultural sector.

I can elucidate it very well from my experience as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, looking after the development of the whole State while focussing mainly on agriculture economy of the State. Inadequate marketing facilities became one of the major bottlenecks for the wellbeing and security of the agriculture-dependent population of Uttarakhand. Thereby, to assure and streamline the marketing possibilities for farmers such that the farmers of the land can make fanfare with new investments, I had approved the APMC Act and Contract Farming act. A four-member expert team of agriculturists was set up, which toured States like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to study their system of APMC. The Act enabled provisions for establishing private mandis, enablement of contract farming and constitution of a regulatory authority avoid exploitation of farmers. Setting

up of private mandis made it possible to cut out extra cess such as mandi cess, which finally, helped in reducing the final costs at both consumer and buyer end. This process initialized better gains for farmers. I did the whole exercise as agriculture marketing was starting to behold a significant transformation in India and across the world; mainly because of the phenomena of liberalization of the trade, including agricultural commodities. This movement impinged the restructuring of the agriculture market with a more integrated and strengthened approach.

While the farming community must be empowered for the global market access opportunities while ensuring fair trade between buyers and sellers for effective prices of farmer's produce, the farmer should also not stifled between the forces of traders, commission agents and other associations and unions. Realizing the challenges, the central government in 2017-18 had released the model APMC and contract farming Acts. After that, several steps were adopted to develop strategies for economically liberalizing farmers. The measures included the formation of the Standing Committee (2018-19) and High-Powered Committee of seven Chief Ministers in July 2019. Rigorous and comprehensive discussions were undertaken for the implementation of model Acts by States and needed changes for attracting private investment in agricultural marketing and infrastructure.

I am embarking upon the strenuous steps under by my colleague Shri Narendra Singh Tomar who under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has bought a set of milestone reforms to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. It is the moment that I must congratulate for being adamant for raising farmer's status and status.

The passing of two bills namely, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill,

2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 is truly a "watershed moment in the history of Indian agriculture." The bills will bring economic liberation for the farmers from the tight constraints they had faced through the years. It is the time that their incomes would be doubled. The prosperity and wellbeing of farmers will bring economic transformation in the country. While saying so, I condemn ill narrative that is being built to miss guide the farmers erroneously.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 will facilitate both intra and inter-state trade of farmers' produce. The bill will also condemn the market fee, cess or levy by the state governments outside APMC areas. Though on one end, it enables the contract farming, on the other hand, it will also allow a three-tier dispute settlement mechanism. While, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 will help farmers in engaging with multiple stakeholders such as the processors, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc. A shield will be enabled for farmers from market unpredictability. A marketing platform with key features of transparency, accessibility and efficiency be developed. Research and new technology will be embedded in the agriculture sector like never before, adhering to the needs of the 21st century.

I am sure that the said reforms bought in by the government will lead to real Inclusiveness in Development. Promoting the economic liberalization of the farmers. The Bills will indeed hold on the quotation that "If the farmer is rich, then so is the nation." The revamped agriculture marketing will bring in the required economic transformation in the country.

(The author is Union Minister for Education)



The day Musi turned belligerent

RAHUL MILIND

Even as heavy downpours have been battering the State capital to the most, inundating city roads, sucking lives through manholes and open nalas and changing streets into furious waterways, one wonders if the history has its curious way of repeating itself after a century.

Sitting next to my window and just staring at the perpetual rain outside, I look at the beautiful Musi which gently flows at a distance. Realising it is September, I ask myself, "What if history repeats itself?" only to feel a wave of mixed emotions that make me go 112 years back in time. To revisit the unanticipated guest that Hyderabad then welcomed, who continues to haunt the city and the memories of its people till date.

Exactly 112 years ago, Hyderabad was drowned in extreme happiness and prosperity by its 'beloved', the sixth Nizam Mahbub Ali Pasha for his rule was filled with joy and celebrations. However, little did she realise that something scarier was making its way that would literally drown her and leave pain for a lifetime. On Saturday, September 26th 1908, heavy rains covered the city which made their way due to a cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal. A ceaseless downpour continued for 48 hours, which resulted in the rise of water level in Musi to 20 feet. By Sunday evening, the water started reaching the doorsteps of the houses near the bank and it had soon become a cloudburst. The Musi rose unprecedentedly, breaking all its wooden barriers, washing away everything that came its way. Water headed up behind Purana Pul and breached the city wall about 3 o'clock by the morning of September 28th, Monday. As writers H R Lynton and Mohini Rajan described the account of one of the eyewitnesses of this tragedy in their book "The Days of the Beloved", "The water was high enough to drown an elephant in the streets. Those who had climbed on the roofs of houses and the tops of trees to save themselves were being washed away with those very houses and trees. The city walls too collapsed, carrying with them hundreds of people who had sought safety on their broad tops." Not only was the unparalleled heritage that Hyderabad proudly boasted till then lost, but more importantly, innumerable innocent lives - families saw their own children and parents being washed away by the merciless floodwaters. Though hard to put in numbers, approximately 15,000 people had died.

The Nizam was utterly devastated by this catastrophe, for he could not see his people and his city drowned, not just in the waters of the Musi but also the sea of sorrow. He was restless and feverish, receiving almost minute by minute reports and issuing relief orders. Though his motor car refused to move in the water, he did not. He would either go his horse or just on foot among the suffering people. Whole families were buried beneath the houses they had built themselves and those who managed to save their lives had to witness the plight-searching for the bodies for their loved ones, calling their names and wandering helplessly. Mahbub Ali Pasha went about comforting people, inspiring them to be strong and help others wherever they could. He opened his palaces around the city, giving refuge to all the homeless people and a number of kitchens worked round-the-clock from September 29 to October 13 to feed them. He opened public shelters, distributed clothes and shawls, and personally donated a million rupees for the relief fund. Salaries of the government servants were given in advance, marriages which had been fixed prior the floods were now performed for the couples and books were given to the students. A few Brahmin Pandits told Mahbub, "The river is an angry goddess and must be sent away. Your highness should bid her farewell as you would a daughter, with gifts and ceremony." Despite being a Muslim ruler, he proved to be much ahead of his time and with a sari, pearls, yellow rice, kumkum powder and two coconuts in a golden plate, he donned the sacred thread, stepped into the furious river, joined his hands in a 'namaste' and performed the aarti. The floods gradually subsided and hope was born. Mahbub Ali Pasha was people's 'beloved' indeed.

Looking at the Musi river from my window which now appears to be so calm, I sigh, thinking how big of a disaster it had created. However, Hyderabad proved to be so strong and resilient - rising like a Phoenix from the ashes and rebuilding its city. I can't help but draw a parallel to the times the world is facing right now and question myself "will we ever heal and recover from this?" How doubtful and anxious it makes me, it even fills me with hope and optimism, and asks me to remind everyone that just like Hyderabad in 1908, we need to be positive, believe in ourselves, come together and work towards building a better tomorrow.

(Special credits to the book "The Days of the Beloved" by Harriet Ronken Lynton and Mohini Rajan)



KURNOOL, KADAPA DISTRICTS FACE FURY OF RAINS, FLOODS

- **Kadapa witnesses heavy rain for third consecutive day**
- **Several colonies submerged in floodwater in Nandyal**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kurnool/Kadapa/Vijayawada: Heavy rains lashed some mandals of Kadapa district for the third continuous day on Sunday while Kurnool district got some respite as floodwater receded in many parts of the district after causing agony for two days. The administration has been trying to restore normalcy and rendering assistance to the flood-affected people in the two districts.

On the other hand, inflows into Prakasam Barrage, Vijayawada, crossed five lakh cusecs mark by Sunday and the first warning was issued by the district administration. The floodwaters were released into sea by lifting the crest gates of the barrage.

Kadapa district has received copious rainfall and recorded 5.4 mm average rainfall and Jammalamadugu received the highest rainfall of 35.2 mm on Sunday. Normal life was badly hit in the mandals of Porumamilla, Kalasapadu, Kasinayana and Jammalamadugu where people living in low-lying areas were forced to stay in knee-deep water following widespread rains and overflowing of rivulets, streams and tanks for the last four days.

Vehicular traffic was disrupted between various destina-



Rescue team members shifting people stranded in floodwater in a colony in Nandyal to a safer place on Sunday

tions in Peddamudum, Prodaturu, Duvvuru, Yerraguntla and Mydukuru areas with streams, rivulets, rivers like Pennar and its tributaries Sagileru, Papagni, Kundu being in spate. The district administration has issued danger warnings alerting the people not to cross the streams and rivulets.

Officials released 15,000 cusecs water to Mylavaram reservoir from Gandikota dam which crossed its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 13.50 tmcft on Sunday. Meanwhile, due to continuous inflows of floodwater from Srisaillam dam, Tallaprodaturu was marooned in floodwater.

Situation turned more pathetic with the back waters of Somasila reservoir released into Pennar river. Some villages in

Sidhavatam mandal have been facing inundation problem. In Kadapa city, several low-lying areas were inundated due to overflowing of drains. Officials lifted four crest gates of Buggavanka dam to avoid inundation of Kadapa city.

Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha who visited low-lying areas in Kadapa directed the officials to allow the water flow by removing silt from the drains. He said that removal of illegal structures built on the drains is the only solution to check inundation problem.

On the other hand, Kurnool district is gradually recovering from the impact of floods as water levels started receding in different mandals on Sunday. But, towns like Nandyal are still facing problem. Several localities in

Nandyal town were totally inundated with floodwater of Kundu river and Chama Kaluva. Hundreds of families were shifted to safer places.

The district administration plunged into action and began evacuation of people to safer places and relief camps. Rescue operations and evacuation of people to relief camps continued till Saturday late night. Rescue operations continued on Sunday in the flood-hit areas in Nandyal.

As many as 20 stranded families were rescued by teams. Saraswathi Nagar in Nandyal was totally inundated due to the fury of River Kundu. Several residents of Saraswathi Nagar were evacuated on Saturday night and shifted to relief camps and still some families are stranded in the floodwaters.

Covid +ve cases cross 6.75 lakh in State

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: A total of 76,416 samples were tested for coronavirus and it turned out 6,923 fresh positives cases in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, taking the aggregate to 6,75,674 but over six lakh of them have already recovered.

The State also saw 7,796 Covid-19 patients getting cured and discharged in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday, according to the latest bulletin.

The toll in a day fell to 45 as the gross increased to 5,708.

According to the bulletin, the number of active cases declined

- **6,923 cases in last 24 hours**
- **The State conducts over 56 lakh tests**
- **Positivity rate drops further to 12.07 % while the recovery rate almost touches 90 %**

further to 64,876 after a total of 6,05,090 recoveries.

While the infection positivity rate dropped further to 12.07 per cent, after 56 lakh sample tests, the recovery rate almost touched 90 per cent, standing at 89.55 per cent.

The mortality rate slid mar-

ginally to 0.84 per cent from 0.85 per cent.

In what has become a daily routine, East Godavari district added 1,006 new cases in 24 hours while its neighbour West Godavari reported 929.

Kurnool reported the lowest number of 229 cases and it also had the least number of active cases at 2,024.

Prakasam, which has the second highest number of active cases at 10,355 behind East Godavari's 10,571, reported eight fresh fatalities in 24 hours.

Krishna reported six, Guntur five and East and West Godavari districts four more deaths each.

TTD records highest Hundi income of ₹2.34 cr on Sunday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: The TTD netted a record income of Rs 2.34 crore on a single day on Sunday through Hundi cash offerings which is highest after the famed Sri Venkateswara temple at Tirumala opened for darshan on June 11 this year following the Covid-19 lockdown.

According to temple sources, the Hundi offerings made by the devotees on Saturday, was taken up for counting on Sunday registering highest Hundi income the TTD had received so far. In all, 18,296 devotees had darshan on Saturday which is also highest so far after the shrine reopened after a closure of about three months due to Covid-19 pandemic. Daily the TTD is issuing about 14,000 darshan tickets but on Saturday it also allowed darshan for the staff including the police involved in the conduct of the 9-day annual Brahmotsavams taking the total number of people who had darshan to above 18,000 against the normal rush of devotees of 12,000 to 13,000 during the period of the pandemic.

TDP Parliamentary constituency chiefs: BCs, Kapus bag majority posts

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The TDP has appointed new presidents for all the 25 Parliamentary constituencies in Andhra Pradesh along with 13 Parliamentary coordinators.

Party national president N Chandrababu Naidu formally announced the names of the committees on Sunday.

Nearly 50 per cent of these newly appointed Parliamentary constituency presidents belong to the BC communities and Kapus. This is in accordance with the TDP's explicit support and commitment to these sections from the beginning.

Naidu made significant changes in the party's approach to the need for balancing different caste and religious equations. The present changes were affected keeping in mind the next generation requirements of the party.

"Of the 25 Parliamentary posts, there are only 5 Kamma leaders. This must be seen as a befitting reply to the YSRCP which has been branding the TDP as a Kamma party with an ulterior motive to derive political advantage," stated Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Deputy Leader of Telugu Desam Legislature Party.

The backward class and Kapus got a lion's share of the party posts. The 32-year-old Kimidi Nagarajuna was appointed president of Vizianagaram Parliamentary constituency and Palla Srinivas for Visakhapatnam, both belong to BCs.

From the Kapu community, popular leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Thota Seetharama Lakshmi from Narsapuram and senior TDP leader Jyothula Nehru's son Jyothula Navin in Kakinada have been made presidents of Parliamentary constituencies.

The new presidents of respective Lok Sabha constituencies are as follows:

Kuna Ravikumar (Srikakulam), Kimidi Nagarajuna (Vizianagaram), Gummadi Sandhya Rani (Araku), Palla Srinivasa Rao (Visakhapatnam), Buddha Naga Jagadeeswara Rao (Anakapalle), Jyothula Navin (Kakinada), Reddy Anantha Kumari (Amalapuram), Kothapalli Samuel Jawahar (Rajamahendravaram), Thota Sitarama Lakshmi (Narsapur), Ganni Veeranjanyulu (Eluru), Konakalla Narayana Rao



(Machilipatnam), Nettem Raghu Ram (Vijayawada), Tenali Sravan Kumar (Guntur), GV Anjaneyulu (Narasaraopet), Yeluri Sambasiva Rao (Bapatla), Nukasani Balaji (Ongole), Sk Abdul Aziz (Nellore), Narasimha Yadav (Tirupati), Pulivarthy Venkata Mani Prasad (Chittoor), Reddappagari Srinivasa Reddy (Rajampeta), Mallela Linga Reddy (Kadapa), Kalava Srinivasulu (Anantapuram), BK Partha Sarathy (Hindupuram), Somiseti Venkateswarlu (Kurnool) and Gouru Venkata Reddy (Nandyal).

Naidu has also appointed 13 senior party leaders as coordinators for two to three Parliamentary segments. They are as follows:

Kondapalli Appala Naidu (Machilipatnam and Guntur), Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy (Kakinada and Amalapuram), PGVR Naidu (Srikakulam and Vizianagaram), Nimmakayala Chinrajappa (Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle), Pithani Satyanarayana (Narasaraopet and Bapatla), Gadde Rammoohan (Rajamahendravaram and Narsapur), Nakka Ananda Babu (Araku), Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar (Eluru and Vijayawada), Mukku Ugranarasimha Reddy (Tirupati and Chittoor), Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy (Kadapa and Rajampeta), V Prabhakar Chowdary (Kurnool and Nandyal), BT Naidu (Anantapur and Hindupur) and BC Janardhan Reddy (Ongole and Nellore).

Army gets combat ready for long winter in Ladakh

Continued from P1

There is no PLA presence on the ground level of PLA four or five but on the dominating height of Finger 4.

On the southern banks of Pangong Tso, the Indian Army is dominating the Rezang la-Rechin La ridgeline on Kailash ranges with strong positions to defend the LAC despite PLA's presence on Black Top and Helmet with the Indian troopers in between the two at the saddle.

"The situation is that both sides are defending their positions but the ridgeline in the area is with the Indian Army," said a military commander familiar with the postures of the two armies.

Although the Indian Army will have a new Ladakh Corps Commander in Lt Gen PG K Menon in place of Lt Gen Harinder Singh in October, the former is Colonel of the Sikh Regiment who dishes out the choicest Punjabi cuss words despite being from Kerala. He has a vast experience on the LAC as he was the brigade general staff

(Operations) of the XIV Corps in Ladakh before commanding a division in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

While the PLA has deployed a brigade strength of mechanized infantry around Tien-Wien Dien across the Daulet Beg Oldi LAC, the Indian Army troops are patrolling the Depsang bulge area within the patrolling limits despite the Chinese efforts to block them. The PLA air activity in this area is more than in the south of the DBO sector due to the close proximity of the Hotan Airbase in Tibet.

As another round of Indian and Chinese military-diplomatic dialogue for total Ladakh disengagement will soon take place, the Indian Army commanders are prepared for the long winter ahead. From November onwards, it will be the endurance powers of a voluntary army (India) against conscript (PLA) army that will be on display. Sitting on the glaciated heights of Saltoro ridge since 1984, the Indian Army will surely give a run for money to the adversary.

9-day annual Brahmotsavams conclude with Chakra Snanam

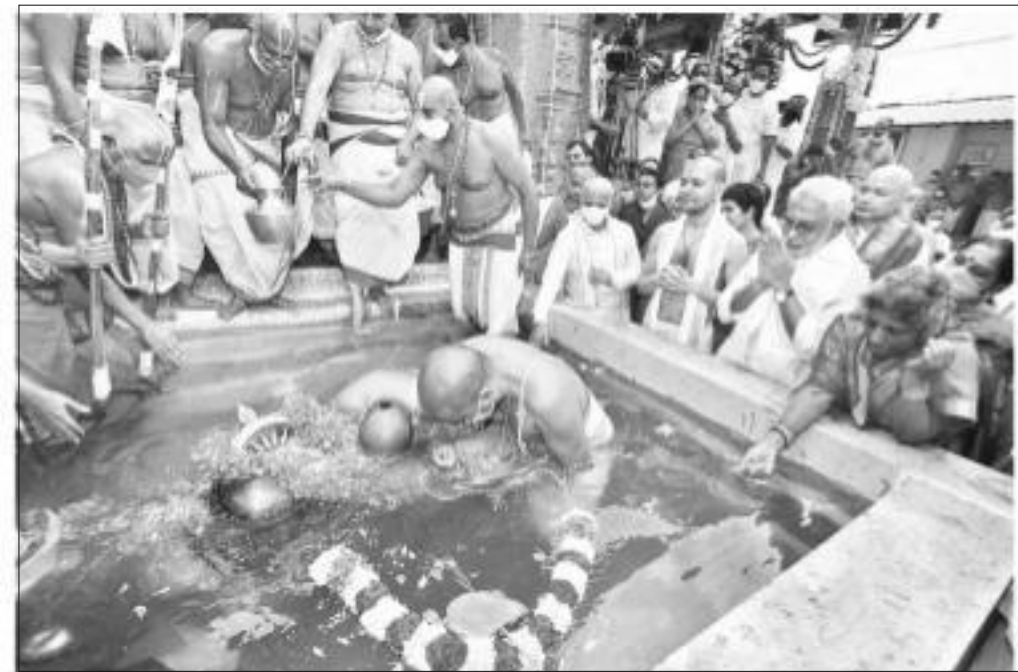
HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirumala: The nine-day annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Sri Venkateswara at Tirumala came to end with the performance of Chakra Snanam, on Sunday.

In view of the Covid-19 restrictions, the sacred Chakra Snanam also called Avabhirhida Snanam was conducted in a newly constructed mini Pushkarini (temple tank) inside the Srivari temple facing Ayina Mahal where the Snapana Tirumanjanam to the deities was conducted before immersion of the Chakra, sacred Disc.

According to Hindu scriptures, Sudarshana Chakra is a spinning, disk-like weapon of Lord Maha Vishnu with 108 serrated edges. The Sudarshana Chakra is often depicted as an Ayudhapurusha (anthropomorphic form).

The Snapana Tirumanjanam to Sri Malayappa Swamy, Sridevi, Bhudevi and Sri Sudarshana Chakratattvar was performed in a grand manner amidst chanting of Veda Mantras. Panchabhisheka Snanam with milk, curd, honey, turmeric and sandal paste was



Priests performing Chakra Snanam at mini Pushkarini at Tirumala on Sunday to mark the conclusion of the nine-day Srivari Brahmotsavams

rendered to deities.

Later, the Sudarshana Chakratattvar was taken ceremoniously to the tank and immersed in the waters in the sacred muhurtam.

With this the nine-day annual Brahmotsavams which commenced in the Kanya Month in the advent of Chitta Star, concluded in a grand manner on the Shravana star, the birth star of

Lord Venkateswara with Chakra Snanam.

TTD Chairman Y V Subba Reddy, EO Anil Kumar Singhal, Board members Sekhar Reddy, Siva Kumar, DP Ananta, Nischita, Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy, Chief Engineer Ramesh Reddy, Temple Dy EO Harindranath, Peishkar Jagannathanachary, DPP member Gundala Subba Rao and others were also present.

VHP leader sees larger conspiracy to weaken Hindus

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: Viswa Hindu Parishad (VHP) international joint secretary Y Raghavaiah alleged that a large conspiracy was being hatched to divide Hindus on caste, region and language lines to weaken Hindus, temples and also to dwarf them population wise to change the Indian nation into Christian and Muslim land. Speaking to the media here on Sunday, the senior VHP leader said foreign funded missionaries, Muslim organisations, Maoists and Left parties have been working hand in hand as part of the conspiracy to change the predominantly Hindu India into Muslim and Christian land.

He suspected that the spurt in the attacks on Hindu temples after YS Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power is part of the design of the anti-Hindu forces.

The large-scale conversion, infiltration, encroachment of temple lands and classifying them as waste lands for taking them for government schemes to weaken temples, planned propaganda demeaning Hindu tradition, culture, temple customs and trafficking, marrying Hindu girls through various enticement which are on the rise is the joint strategy of these forces, he said cautioning Hindus to wake up and unite to thwart these forces evil design.

After Rohtang, focus now on Shinku La tunnel

Continued from P1

Experts said the 9.2 km-long horseshoe-shaped single-tube, two-lane tunnel - the world's longest motorable tunnel at over 3,000 metre above the sea level - is a key step in the Defence Ministry's attempt to make the 475-km Manali-Keylong-Leh highway, used mainly by the armed forces to reach forward areas in Ladakh bordering China and Pakistan, motorable round-the-year.

The Rohtang tunnel -- a dream of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and named after him posthumously -- is going to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his day-long visit on October 3.

The tunnel has been completed after 10 years of sheer hard work by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) with an outlay of over Rs 3,200 crore.

"The Rohtang tunnel alone is not enough to provide the Manali-Keylong-Leh axis an all-weather link as the tunnel is going to help only civilians of Keylong," said an official of the BRO, which constructs roads along the international border.

"Other three high-altitude mountain passes that lie between Keylong and Leh still remain snow-

bound for at least six months in a year that make the highway totally standstill," he said.

According to the official, the all-weather road to forward areas requires more tunnels like Rohtang Pass, either at Shinku La or at least three passes located on the original 475-km Manali-Leh road for round-the-year connectivity. From Keylong, the district headquarters of Lahaul-Spiti, the road travels further to Leh via Darcha, some 170 km from Manali.

From Darcha, where the BRO has just completed the 360-m long highest steel truss bridge, one road bifurcates towards Shinku La (pass), the shortest route that traversing the remote Zaskar region towards Padum, some 30 km from Leh, and another towards the windy Manali-Leh highway.

The 297-km long Darcha-Nimmu-Padum road has been identified as the third strategic alternative to Ladakh in wake of the threat from Pakistan and China. The double lane road is under construction and likely to be completed by 2023, officials said.

The BRO is also studying the feasibility of constructing a tunnel beneath the 13.5-km-long snow avalanche-prone Shinku La like the Rohtang tunnel to avoid the

majestic pass. "The tunnel beneath Shinku La will further drastically reduce the distance between Manali and Leh," an official said. The Manali-Leh route is 475 km, while the Manali-Darcha-Padum-Leh road is 444 km.

Currently, the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corp Ltd is preparing the detailed project report of the Shinku La tunnel that will link Himachal Pradesh with Ladakh. Officials admit with the completion of the Rohtang Pass tunnel, the focus of the Indian government now shifts towards the construction of the Shinku La tunnel owing to the strategic significance of the third route to Ladakh, a shorter one.

The troop movement towards Ladakh is now by two routes -- the 434-km Srinagar-Kargil-Leh via Zojila Pass and the 475-km Manali-Leh that passes through the Rohtang Pass. But they remain cut off from the rest of the country for over six months due to heavy snowfall. For Kargil, the troop movement from Manali is via Leh that is 700-km long. With the construction of the Darcha-Nimmu-Padum road through the Shinku La tunnel, the distance between Manali and Kargil will be reduced to 522 km.

Safe festive offers to woo customers

Continued from P1

The malls are introducing pre-booking slots for customers and their family members at a convenient time. All that the customers will have to do is to just click on that particular mall portal and fill the details which includes the booking of time slot and the number of family members interested to visit the mall.

In an instant response, the citizens will receive a message with OTP (one time password) and time slot will also be mentioned. Before entering the mall, the visitors will have to show the message to the security personnel.

Some chain of malls in the city have introduced this system on experimental basis and are said to be receiving good response. A senior executive of a major fashion store said that limited members will be permitted to visit the shopping mall during the festive season during busy hours in view of the corona pandemic. This would help in meeting the norm of social distancing. "Depending on the store

space, not more than 30 people will be allowed to visit in a single floor at one go."

In view of SOPs in eateries at the malls, special safety measures like use of disposable material and multi counters at different places in the same premises are also being opened before the flood of festival rush.

Some more visitor-friendly schemes like opening of cab booking counters at malls with good offers like discounts on big purchases in the travel bill and special discounts for using a specific cab services are also being worked out. The mall managements are holdings talks with cab service providers to prepare a viable business formula mutual benefit in the crisis time.

To clear the piled up stocks mainly in the garments segment during last five months, offering huge discounts are also on the anvil. Some have already announced 50 per cent discounts on many brands. They are also going in for offering coupons which can be redeemed during the next visit.

Farm Bills for farmers' welfare: Modi

Continued from P1

Earlier, farmers could not sell their produce because of strict laws wherein they were challanned for selling their farm produce outside APMCs. The new Bills passed by Parliament this month are opposed by different farmer unions and opposition parties. The Prime Minister said: "Had we followed the essence of Babu's (Mahatma Gandhi) economic philosophy, we would not need to work for building an Atmanirbhar Bharat now. It would have happened much earlier."

Modi also paid tributes to great leaders of the



Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. - Warren Buffett



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DELHI MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

RBI policy review, global cues to set the tone

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Tracking weak global cues and uncertainty over economic recovery due to rising Covid-19 infections, equity benchmark indices concluded the September series derivatives expiry week on a negative note. The BSE Sensex crashed by 1,457 points to close at 37,389 and the Nifty ended lower by 445 points at 11,050. From the recent highs, indices have corrected nearly 8.5 percent

till date. Broader markets falling in tandem with benchmarks witnessed 5.2 per cent drop in the S&P BSE Small-cap index, and 4.7 per cent fall in the S&P BSE Mid-cap index. Fragile nature of the rally was visible with as many as 103 stocks in the S&P BSE Small-cap index falling 10-20 percent in just five trading sessions. It is pertinent to note that in the last four months, estimated amount raised by primary deals (IPO/Rights/OFS/QIP) is about Rs 1,20,000 crore. Observers say some money is moving out of secondary markets to primary markets resulting in lack of follow up buying in secondary markets. The 'super quick' recovery of the markets from the March lows was supported by bounce in global markets, domestic and FII inflows, and due to easy money policy.

Near term direction of the markets will be dictated by RBI MPC's monetary policy review meeting scheduled on October 1, geo-political issues, macroeconomic data and global cues.

Heard on the Street: The 2020 US presidential election is just five weeks away and observers expect this year's voter turnout will be the highest on record over the past 100 years. Market participants should be prepared for the 2020 presi-

MARKET KHABREIN



After a month-long underperformance, the financials are expected to stage a pullback rally. Stock futures in ACC, Berger Paints, Bharti Airtel, Cipla, Infosys, Pidilite Inds, Marico, Ramco Cements, Vedanta and Wipro looking good

dential election to be a close one and that the results could likely be hotly contested, resulting in unexpected policy uncertainty and corresponding market volatility. It is interesting to recall that the best-performing portfolio over the past 120 years was one that stayed fully invested through both Democratic

and Republican administrations.

'Partisan' portfolios - which would invest only when a Democrat or a Republican was in office - underperformed significantly. Surveys show that 1 out of 4 Americans will not accept the result of the election if their candidate doesn't win. These two factors will cause uncertainty

to build and global risk assets could experience near-term volatility, with some investors fleeing to safe-haven assets such as gold. Analysts expect Emerging Markets Asia equities to strengthen from current levels into the year-end as the election overhang is removed and investors should refocus on fundamentals, such as an improving economy and likely Covid-19 vaccine in 2021.

Quote of the week: "Life has immense analogy with stock market. It is volatile, but if you stick on long enough, it has the potential to reward you with handsome returns in the long run." - Manoj Arora

F&O/ sector watch

Amidst heightened volatility, settlement week witnessed brisk trading in derivatives segment. With the broader market sentiment turning negative in early September and continuing to be so, the October series is expected to witness side-

ways movement with a negative bias. Market wide rollover was seen at 93 per cent. However, the Nifty rollover was seen at 71 per cent as compared to three-month average of 79 percent. Pharma and metals have witnessed strong rollover along with a negative sectoral momentum, which indicates a further pressure. Realty and IT have seen lower positions being rolled over and suggest reduction in selling pressure in the near term.

Maximum Put Open Interest (OI) was seen at 10,500 followed by 10,000 strike, while maximum Call OI was at 11,500 followed by 12,000 strike.

Marginal Call writing was seen in 11,300 and 11,600 strikes, while Put writing was seen at 10,500 then 10,600 strikes. The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 21.92 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 22.41 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 23.51 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.22 slightly down from the previous week indicating Put unwinding in OTM and Call writing. Techies point that the Nifty bounced back sharply after taking support at its 200-day exponential moving average on daily charts which is placed at 10,845 levels. Expect stock-specific activity to continue amid ongoing consolidation in the range of 11,300-10,800. After month long underperformance, Financials are expected to stage pullback rally. Stock futures looking good are ACC, Berger Paints, Bharti Airtel, Cipla, Infosys, Pidilite Inds, Marico, Ramco Cements, Vedanta and Wipro.

(The author is a stock market expert. He is former vice chairman of AP Planning Board)

IN SHORT

Primary issuances get FPI inflows

Mumbai: Inflow of foreign portfolio investments (FPI) surged in August with around \$6 billion, or around Rs 47,000 crore, of net investments by overseas investors with a majority meant for primary issuances of shares. Around 63 per cent of net FPI flows last month were into primary issuances, according to a report by ICICI Securities. Interestingly, last month, India outperformed other emerging markets in terms of inflows. The report also said that domestic institutional investments (DII) too had positive flows towards primary issuances, although the secondary flows continued to be negative with an outflow of \$1.5 billion. "FPIs deployed a relatively high \$6 billion in August 20 into Indian stocks but the higher proportion of the flows went into absorbing primary issues," the report said. As per the report, FPIs were buyers across sectors, except for selling in consumer staples and telecom. The top bought sectors were banks (Rs 9,200 crore), consumer discretionary (Rs 2,100 crore), and auto (Rs 1,300 crore) and pharma (Rs 1,300 crore).

GST e-invoicing mandatory from Oct

New Delhi: The Centre has decided to implement its decision to make GST e-invoicing mandatory for companies with annual turnover of over Rs 500 crore for their business-to-business transactions starting October 1. So, no more relaxation is likely in terms of e-invoicing, said a senior official. On the other hand, industry bodies have urged the government to not make it mandatory and rather allow voluntary compliance. The initial date for its roll out was April 1, 2020, but the Centre notified October 1, 2020, as revised date for implementation of e-invoicing. The relief, however, would be there for relatively smaller businesses, as the threshold for mandatory e-invoicing, a step to improve tax compliance, was earlier planned to be kept at Rs 100 crore, is set to be raised to Rs 500 crore on the recommendations of an empowered panel of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.

Forex reserves surge over \$3 bn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves rose by \$3.378 billion for the week ended September 18, 2020. As per the weekly statistical supplement from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the reserves rose to \$545.038 billion from \$541.660 billion during the week ended September 11. India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$3.943 billion to \$501.464 billion. However, the value of the country's gold reserves decreased, declining by \$580 million to \$37.440 billion. The SDR value inched up by \$1 million to \$1.483 billion. Similarly, the country's reserve position with the IMF increased. It gained \$14 million to \$4.651 billion.

Inculcate habit of tracking expenses, investments



K Naresh Kumar

Dave Ramsey said that "A Budget is telling you money where to go instead of wondering where it went".

Budgeting helps individuals to turn disciplined and prudent in the choices they make, while providing guilt-free experience during their spending. Many believe that the path to wealth is by earning more money, but it actually depends upon how we save it. Of course, budgeting is nothing new and we tend to follow it but it's the consistency that puts us in good stead. While we aspire to create long-term wealth or savings, we must have a clear track of our expenses lest we end up clueless of our earnings.

Financial success has always been about our behavior and budget allows us to cut down our instincts to retain a disciplined approach to personal finance. There are multiple ways one could budget from a balanced money formula to zero-based budget to pay yourself budget to 'No-budget' budget. It's less important what approach one picks up than to have one, even if it's designed by you.

The most popular is the balanced money approach 50-30-20 method where 50 per cent of your income goes towards your needs like

housing/rent, transportation, groceries, health and utilities, etc. A 30 per cent goes towards your wants like dine-outs, concerts, parties, gadget spending, etc., while the rest of 20 per cent goes towards your financial future like paying a debt or sizing up your reserves, etc. This is a simpler way to ap-

proach instead of tracking a number of variables, you bucket the similar ones into one. The problem, however, is tending to overspend in this due to a higher proportion allocated to wants.



Zero-based budget is where you entrust every penny is accounted for. It's the ultimate balance sheet of your finances. Each inflow is matched with each expense ensuring that every rupee is accounted for. This is detailed layout of each variable for each expense

or reconcile with multiple outflows to tally.

The 'No-budget' method as the name suggest is to have no budgetary limits to any of the expenses. All that one needs to keep an eye is on the available balance though adherents actually ensure that all their bills/payments are automated and also have such limited transactions and/or have a mental math of these. So, with no bars available, one needn't track the expenses at all. This is fit for

those individuals who're completely aware of their spending nature and have clear priorities in place.

The 'pay yourself first' budget is possibly the simplest of all methods where once you allocate for your saving goals, the rest available is for spending. Despite what it appears, the money is routed to all the savings and investment avenues first before the income is used for any other wants. That way you could limit the discretionary spend, while giving taking care of higher priorities which eventually benefit you in the future.

The advent of technology has greatly enhanced the way we could track our expenses and investments. Multiple mobile phone apps like Mint, Moneyview, mTrakr, etc., are available for anyone to get hooked to budgeting. Of course, still the paper/pen model also works or even a simple worksheet in a computer. The idea here is to bring a habit of tracking ones expenses in their lives. That's why it's said that a penny saved is penny earned.

(The author is a co-founder of "Wealocity", a wealth management firm and could be reached at knk@wealocity.com)

IT'S WISE TO EXIT LONG POSITIONS ON ANY BOUNCE

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

After a major fall on last Thursday, the green screen was back on Friday. The short-covering in several stocks lifted the indices. All sectoral indices closed in green on Friday. But, on a weekly basis, the NSE Nifty fell by 454.7 points or 3.95 per cent during the last week. The BSE Sensex fell by 3.8 per cent. The broader indices Nifty Midcap-100 and Smallcap-100 fell by 5.2 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Technically, the Nifty entered into a confirmed downtrend. As it closed below the prior swing lows and 50DMA decisively after May 27 with seven distribution day count, the trend is clearly reversed to downward. There is a long channel breakdown too. The Nifty lost over 1,000 points or 8.5 per cent. This is the second thousand point correction during the rally since March lows. As the Nifty broke the upward channel, the breakdown target is also just over 1,000 points. The current breakdown happened at 11,290 levels along with 50DMA breakdown. Any steep correction will result in counter-trend rallies. Friday's rally comes into that category. We need to watch where this rally will end.

Since March lows, the size of the bullish bars is smaller and with a gap up openings. But look at the



bearish bars, they are larger than the bearish bars. And on the most bullish days, the Nifty traded within the first 15 or 30 minutes range. As we mentioned earlier, there are several similarities between Oct-Jan structure to July-Sept structure. There clear evidence showing the distribution is happening at higher levels. This distribution pattern is visible in divergences. Lack of momentum is also a concern for the last 2-3 months.

On the downside, there are several supports placed at 10,600-650 zone. After this, 38.2 per cent retracement support placed at 10,158, which is also another swing low on June 25. We can't forecast more than this level. We need to watch the market behaviour between 10,600-11,600 zone.

On the price internals (indicators) front, the RSI (41.49) bounced back to above levels after taking support at 30 levels. Let us watch for, will the current up move above 60 zone for bullish strength. Even a move above 50-55 zone is also good for the short term. It may reach to 55 during the counter-

trend consolidation. The MACD line is below the zero-line on a daily chart is a bearish sign, and the histogram on a weekly chart clearly suggests that bullish momentum is waning. The Directional movement index ADX is

turned up above 20 levels, indicating that, bears are gaining strength. The negative Directional Movement Indicator (DMI) is much above the +DMI is a weaker sign. The Nifty almost took support at long term average 200-DMA (Now at 10,757) on Thursday. The Anchored VWAP support is at 10,277 and resistance at 11,201.

With the above technical evidence, it wise to exit the long positions on any bounce towards 50DMA. Very few stocks in Nifty-50 showing strong technical strength after Thursday's fall. The topping formations in large-caps and the clean breakdowns in leading banking stocks is a major worry now for market direction. IT sector looks better on the chart at the current juncture. Index stocks like Coal India, IOC and Bharti Airtel are near or at the March lows. Mid-cap and Small-cap indices are reacting from the resistance levels.

(The author is a financial journalist and technical analyst. He can be reached at tbchary@gmail.com)

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

Highest concentration of Open Interest (OI) at 11,500CE and 10,000PE indicates 500 point range downwards when compared to the previous week. Further, the tepid rollover to October derivatives series further holds undercurrent uncertainty and weakness in the market. After gaining in the last three monthly series, Nifty closed the September futures and options (F&O) series with 6.5 per cent loss. Nifty rollover to October in September expiry was 58 per cent as against 79 per cent in August. Bank Nifty rollover was 58 per cent when compared to previous rollover of 77 per cent. Nifty futures rollover was 71 per cent below the three-month average of 78 per cent.

From derivatives front, Put writers added hefty Open Interest at 10,900 and 10,800 strikes, which should act as strong support for the Nifty," observes Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities

Ltd. The 11,500 strike, which recorded maximum Call OI addition of 12.36 lakh contracts, has highest Call OI of 25.41 lakh contracts followed by 12,000 strike with 21.81 lakh contracts, 11,200 strike with 20.39 lakh contracts and 11,300 strike with 19.81 lakh contracts. Further 11,300/11,350/11,400 strikes also witnessed reasonable build-up of Call OI.

Coming to Put side, the 10,000 strike, which also recorded highest Put OI of 13.25 lakh contracts, has highest Put OI build-up of 25.07 lakh contracts followed by 10,900 strike with 21.22 lakh contracts, 10,800 strike with 19.92 lakh contracts, 10,500 strike with 19.49 lakh contracts. Other strikes that recorded significant Put OI addition include 10,900/10,500/10,800 strikes.

The market was volatile during the last monthly expiry week. The NSE Nifty closed the September series 6.5 per cent lower in the settlement trade. However, a sharp recovery on Friday helped the Nifty end above 11,000 as short covering

Long liquidation in sight

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

was experienced across sectors after a sharp fall. Analysts forecast that the Nifty may remain under pressure, while highs can be utilised for creating short positions.

The October F&O series commenced with just 85 lakh shares and it's one of the lowest Open Interest in the Nifty historically suggesting long liquidation. Sector-specific and stock-specific trading took place. Majority of major stocks recorded relatively low OI coming into the October series. On the options front, the Nifty has a major Call base at the 11,200 strike, which is likely to remain an immediate hurdle for the coming weekly settlement. Analysts predict that the

Short covering rally in select stocks likely; PCR of OI declines to 1.28 indicating Put unwinding in OTM & Call writing



Nifty may trade with a negative bias. According to ICICI Direct.com, from a rollover point of view, stocks like ITC, Coal India and most PSU and private sector banking heavyweights are starting the new series with significant short open interest. Closure of positions among these

stocks may trigger a short covering rally in the October series.

"Indian markets began October series on a positive note as bulls made a comeback in Friday's session with Nifty reclaiming 11,000 levels after six consecutive days of losing streak. Gains were led by heavyweights like Infosys, TCS, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries. The sentiment was also lifted by stronger Asian peers on hopes of US stimulus," remarked Bisht.

For the week ended September 25, 2020, BSE Sensex tumbled by 1,457.16 points or 3.75 per cent lower and closed at 37,388.66 points from the previous close of 38,845.82 points. Similarly, NSE Nifty fell 454.7 points or 3.95 per cent, to end the week at 11,050.25 points as against last week's 11,504.95 level.

Bisht forecasts: "From technical front, Nifty bounced back sharply

after taking support at its 200 days exponential moving average on daily charts, which is placed at 10,845 levels. For upcoming week, data indicates that as far Nifty is holding above 10,800 levels, the bias is likely to remain in favour of bulls. On the higher side, however, 11,200 levels is a strong hurdle for Nifty." Volatility moved towards 23.5 levels towards settlement and declined below 21 level as the market recovered and significant option writing was observed across strikes for the new series. Derivatives analysts believe the volatility index may not move below 20 levels and witness an upward movement from 20 level.

India VIX rose 24 per cent on expiry day and 17 per cent for the week. "The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 19.85 per cent, while that for Put options closed at 23.91 per cent. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 20.67 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.28 slightly down from the previous week indicating Put unwinding in OTM and Call writing," added Bisht.

Bank Nifty

Shedding 1,048.70 points or 4.76 per cent, Bank Nifty closed at 20,982.35 points as against the previous week's closing of 22,031.05 points. The Bank Nifty too concluded the September F&O monthly series on negative note as it closed below its major support of 21,000. Private banks Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank along with SBI eased on profit booking. As per ICICI Bank.com data, Despite the sudden move, there was no major closure in OI whereas ATM Call of 21,000 added near 13,000 contracts followed by 21,500 Call, which saw addition of 5,800 contracts. At the same time, no major ATM Put writing is visible. Major Put OI addition is at the 20,500 strike, indicating a leg of retracement is due.

Many private banks violated their highest Put base and closed below it. However, on the very first day of the new series, the Bank Nifty moved two per cent higher and tested its sizeable Call base of 21,000.

Cong livid over ambiguous revenue laws

The grand old party condemns delay in restoration of properties' registration

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy strongly condemned the delay in restoration of registration of properties across the State in view of introduction of a new Revenue Act and alleged that there was no functional administration in Telangana State. Narayana Reddy, in a media statement on Sunday, said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao was emulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi in introducing new laws without any planning and preparation. "Although it is debatable where or not Telangana needs a new Revenue Law at this juncture, the Chandrashekar Rao government should have planned its implementation in a proper manner. All registrations are at a halt for the last one month and the situation would remain unchanged until next month till Dasara. The Chief Minister is apparently not conscious of the impact of his wrong and ill-planned decisions on the common man. Both Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao have a long history of implementing decisions without giving any thought on their implications," he said.

The Congress leader alleged that there was no visible administration in Telangana State. He said there was no working Secretariat and all Ministers and senior officials were functioning from symbolic make-shift offices. With the Chief Minister shutting down all Revenue offices until further orders, there was no visible administration in Telangana State, he said and added that except police stations, no other government office was functioning in a full-

fledged manner.

"Right from demonetisation to GST, lockdown and now new farm laws, Modi implemented his decisions in an unplanned manner. Chandrashekar Rao followed his footsteps and imposed decisions in the same manner. Both are good at creating great hype around their decisions. But they are highly poor at the implementation and performance," he alleged.

Reddy said almost all senior officials including District Collectors had no clarity over the new Revenue Law. The State government was planning to organise training camps for the senior officials to teach them the implementation of new law. However, he said that the TRS Ministers were trying to create a false hype around the new law by organising farmers' rallies across Telangana State. He challenged the TRS Ministers to make any group of farmers explain the benefit of the new Revenue law. He alleged that the TRS leaders were forcing the farmers to believe that the new Revenue Act was good for them while they themselves were unaware of their provisions, he said.

AICC TS in-charge calls for strengthening cadre ahead of polls

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The new AICC Telangana In-charge, Manickam Tagore, held a series of meetings in Gandhi Bhavan with the TPCC functionaries on the 2nd day of his visit to the city. With an emphasis on teamwork, he asked the leaders to strengthen the cadre to win the upcoming polls of MLC and municipal corporations.

Aiming at two MLC seats under Graduate quota from Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency and Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar constituency, Tagore held a meeting with important leaders of the six districts which was presided over by TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy.

He called upon leaders to ensure they remain available to people and pay heed to their problems owing to the flawed policies adopted by the TRS government.

As part of the preparation for the MLC elections, he asked the leaders to ensure that all the graduates are registered with the election commission. The AICC Telangana in-charge also asked the leaders to generate awareness amongst the masses about the farm bills and about its impact on the lives of farmers.

To constitute sub-committees

For efficient functioning of the TPCC, Tagore asked the leadership to constitute sub-committees for in-depth study

of the serious issues the people were facing and after weighing the pros and cons a strong decision should be made for going ahead with the campaign. He hoped that if the people's issues were taken up seriously, they would remain attached to the party.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that a delegation of TPCC in conformity with the AICC would be meeting the Governor on the issue of farm bill on Monday. The State leadership would also ensure that the signature campaign against the farm bill would be a success. By approaching the farmers in Telangana from October 2, the party is hopeful of garnering opinion against the Union government's decision.

GRADUATE CONSTITUENCY

EC begins preparation of poll rolls for Council elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Election Commission of India (ECI) started the exercise of preparation of the electoral rolls for the elections in the graduate constituencies of Telangana Legislative Council.

According to a direction issued by the Commission, the people who have completed their graduation three years ago are eligible to vote in the Council elections under Graduates constituencies.

The Election Commission of India has already issued a schedule for the elections in Graduates constituencies. The old voters list of the Graduates constituencies is cancelled and a fresh list of voters is prepared before the elections.

The term of two Graduates constituencies is ending by March 29, 2021 and the ECI has to take up elections and get the new members. The 2015 list of voters was cancelled as per rule and now the fresh list would be

prepared starting the enrolment from October 1. The graduates who have voted during the previous elections will also have to enroll their names afresh.

The persons who have become graduates in 2017 should enroll their names from the enrolment drive starting from October 1. The graduates can make applications individually or through online. The EC appoints officials as per the polling centers and the eligible voters can contact the official with Aadhaar Card and Degree certificate and some other documents. Similarly, the application can be made online also.

The graduates can log on to www.ceotelangana.nic.in or <http://www.nvsp.in> and fill up Form 18. After filling up all the details the applicant will have to upload the scanned documents. The last date for applying as voter is November 11. The EC would be releasing a draft voters list on December 1 and a final list on January 18.

Death count touches 1,100 mark as 9 more die of Covid-19

Hyderabad: Telangana is reporting almost similar number of new cases and recoveries for the last several days. The trend continued on Saturday also with both of them close to 2,000 each. With 1,967 new cases, the Covid tally in the State crossed 1.85 lakh (1,85,833). Also, the deceased count touched 1,100 mark with 9 new deaths reported until Saturday evening. The total number of recovered cases so far rose to 1,54,499 while the active cases figure stood at

30,234. Of this, over 5,500 patients are being treated in hospitals while the remaining, nearly 24,500 patients are in home or institutional isolation. Meanwhile, Karimnagar district has reported highest number of cases (152) in the State outside GHMC limits (297 cases). Ranga Reddy (147) and Medchal-Malkajigiri (37) are just behind Karimnagar. Nalgonda is the fourth district outside Hyderabad that has registered more than a century of cases each.

Man kills deaf-mute wife

After hitting her, the husband allegedly pushes her from balcony

On Saturday night, he came home drenched and asked his wife to get his food ready, and as usual they had food. However, after a while he got angry over some issue and started hitting Nasreen

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: A deaf and dumb woman was allegedly murdered by her husband on Saturday night at Humayun Nagar. The victim was identified as Nasreen Begum (25), wife of the accused, Ibrahim (29).

According to police, the accused runs a pharmacy shop at Humayun Nagar. On Saturday night, he came home drenched and asked his wife to get his food ready, and as usual they had food. However, after a while he got angry over some issue and started hitting Nasreen.

As she was deaf and dumb, she could not react to his abuses and he kept on overpowering her. In this way, he went on hitting her and took her to the balcony from



where she fell down and suffered grievous injuries. Though she lay over there for an hour, the accused did not take her to the hospital. However, when the woman's parents learnt about the incident, they rushed to her home and took her to Osmania General Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival, informed K Sunil, Inspector of police.

He noted, "The victim's parents have filed a police complaint against the husband and alleged that he used to harass her all the time and also informed the police that it was his second marriage and the couple had two children. Based on the complaint, the husband has been taken into custody and the matter is being investigated."

20 crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar dam lifted

Ace badminton player PV Sindu, along with her family members, visits the dam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nagarjuna Sagar (Nalgonda): Floodwaters from upper streams continued to flow into Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir on Sunday. The Nagarjuna Sagar Project officials lifted 20 gates of the dam to the height of 15 feet and released 6.06 lakh cusecs of water to the downstream as outflow from the project, whereas Sagar reservoir is getting equal amount of water as inflows from upper streams. Officials of the project have been operating the creased gates as per the inflows of the reservoir.

Sagar reservoir is looking like a full pot as it reached the full reservoir level of 590 feet with storage capacity as 312 tmc ft.

Many tourists visited Sagar on Sunday. Ace badminton player and world champion PV Sindhu along with her family members visited Sagar and spent time at the Viewpoint of the project and enjoyed the beauty of Nagarjuna Sagar project as water was released through dam gates.



World badminton champ P V Sindhu posing for a photograph against the backdrop of the mighty Nagarjuna Sagar dam which provided a feast to onlookers' eyes as 20 of its crest gates were opened due to heavy inflows on Sunday

TRS leaders resolve to ensure victory of Kavitha in Council polls

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: TRS leaders from Nizamabad have resolved to ensure the huge victory of Kalvakuntla Kavitha, who is contesting the Council elections under the local body quota.

A meeting of the TRS party leaders was held at the residence of Minister V Prashanth Reddy on Sunday where they resolved to work for the huge victory of former MP Kavitha. The voters in this constituency would be the MPTCs, ZPTCs, Corporators and Councillors.

Among the electorate the TRS leaders claim to have the support of 80 per cent of the public representatives and decided to entrust responsibilities to all the leaders in the erstwhile Nizamabad district. They allocated a group of voters to each leader and the responsibility of the leader would be to ensure that the vote is cast in favour of Kavitha.

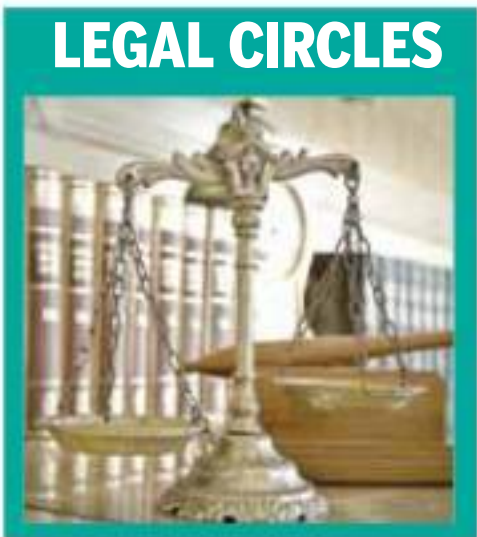
The election to Council seat would be on October 9. The bypoll was necessitated because of the disqualification of a member R Bhoopati Reddy.

DR H C UPADHYAY

While the whole world is devotionally celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, our country, the citadel of democracy, has seen violent scenes in the last week in Parliament.

In the melee that ensued after the Lok Sabha-passed Bills for the welfare of farmers were tabled in the Rajya Sabha, not only verbal abuses were hurled at the treasury benches, but also at the Deputy Chairman, who was occupying the august seat. The acrimony culminated into rushing of the members to the well and tearing off the papers of draft Bills. Thereafter, in order to maintain order in the House, the Deputy Speaker had to call the Marshalls. While, the rest of the House was aghast to see the Marshalls being attacked physically by the unruly members of Parliament, the common man had only to curse himself for sending such worthless people to represent them in the temple of democracy.

This is not an isolated incident. Even in the past, ever since the Parliamentary democracy began functioning, there have been umpteen number of incidents of unruly behaviour by the elected representatives. What is worse is that, steadily such incidents are increasing



day after day and that too with more severity and violence.

Gone are the days when a witty sarcasm ruled the roost. Now, the place of decency has been captured by violence, anger and total disregard for the democracy.

Following the latest incident when even the Deputy Speaker was attacked physically, besides the Marshalls, it must be said to the credit of the Deputy Speaker Harivansh Rai that he maintained cool and despite a No Confidence Motion moved against him by the unruly Opposition, chose to serve tea to the unruly and violent gang outside the Parliament which was staging a sit-in. In turn, the victim Deputy Speaker too sat on a token hunger strike for 24 hours.

Both the dharna and the act of offering tea to the perpetrators of crime are certainly called

Gandhigiri. In any other civilised democracy, the gesture of the Deputy Speaker would have been highlighted by the media, but alas! our myopic media has yet to learn such niceties of Gandhian ideology. The agenda-oriented thick-skinned Opposition ought to spend a few weeks, if not months to understand the Gandhian philosophy of protest.

Let it be clearly understood by the anti-Modi, anti-BJP and anti-NDA forces that if they do not understand the Gandhian gestures as one shown by the Deputy Speaker, the innocent nation loving people of this country cannot be blamed if they go berserk to assert their rights in the wider interests.

And God save this nation if the heavy hammer of masses eventually falls on such rock heads who refuse to see the dire consequences awaiting their end. In such an eventuality, even if Mahatma returns in his physical form to this country, it would be a failure.

No driving licence, no claim

The Supreme Court in an important judgment delivered in *Beli Ram vs Rajinder Kumar and Anr*, has held that, when the owner of the motor vehicle employs a driver, he cannot wash

off his hands from his duty to make sure that the driving licence of his employee is renewed timely.

In the instant case, the licence of the driver was not renewed for the period of three years and when the driver had met with an accident, his claim from the insurance company stood invalid as the SC observed that this proves the gross negligence of the owner of the motor vehicle which is in violation of Section 5 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and hence, the insurance company cannot be made liable.

Right to Shelter, a fundamental right

The right to shelter is a fundamental right said the Bombay High Court. The Court after taking suo motu cognizance of the building collapse tragedy in Thane's Bhiwandi area which took the lives of 41 innocent people so far has noted that "We are of the prima facie opinion that the right of the citizens to live in safe buildings and environment would be a facet of the right guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India and it would be the duty of the civic bodies to bring about a situation that all buildings within their respective municipal jurisdiction

are legal, sustainable and safe." The division bench of Bombay High Court, comprising Chief Justice Dipankar Dutta and Justice GS Kulkarni issued the notices and gave October 15 as the next date of hearing in the matter.

HC makes mask mandatory

The face mask, which has become an identity of Covid-19 pandemic all over the world, now gets a seal of approval from Allahabad High Court. The High Court on September 24 issued a writ of Mandamus for the State of Uttar Pradesh making wearing of masks mandatory 'no person should be seen outside his/her house without a mask on his/her face and he or she should check that the mask covers both the nose and the mouth.'

The division bench comprising Justice Siddhartha Verma and Justice Ajit Kumar gave this direction while hearing a Public Interest Litigation complaining about inhumane conditions at quarantine centres, and for providing better treatment to corona positive patients.

Mask apart, the court also issued a slew of directions including disposal of used masks, creating medical facilities during the Covid pandemic.

Lawyer slapped with Rs 10,000 fine

The Gujarat High Court on September 24 fined a lawyer Rs 10,000 for smoking a cigarette in his car during an online hearing. Justice AS Supreya saw JV Ajmera, a junior advocate from Surat, who was appearing for two petitioners seeking bail, smoking a cigarette while sitting in the car during online hearing.

"It was not expected from an advocate to be smoking in the car during the court proceedings. Such behaviour of the advocate is required to be strictly condemned." The judge also observed, "...advocates appearing through video conference are required to maintain minimum dignified decorum so that the majesty and dignity of the proceedings as well as the institution are maintained."

The court also ordered the Bar Council of Gujarat and Bar Association of High Court to devise proper mechanism to maintain a dignified decorum before the court.

This incident brings us back to the Supreme Court where during an online hearing of a case, a senior lawyer, Rajiv Dhawan was found smoking hukka during online hearing and so far, no action has been taken against him.

We Indians lack sense of humour: Farokh Engineer backs Gavaskar

New Delhi (IANS):Former India wicket-keeper Farokh Engineer has come out in support of Sunil Gavaskar, who faced backlash on social media for his comments on Anushka Sharma, wife of current Team India skipper Virat Kohli.

Gavaskar faced a lot of ire on Twitter for a remark he made on Anushka helping Kohli with his practice during the Covid-19 induced lockdown, with the actress herself demanding an explanation from the

legendary cricketer.

"We, Indians lack a sense of humour. If Sunil had indeed said so about Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, it must have been in a humorous tone and not in the bad or derogatory taste," Engineer said while speaking to Pakistan Observer.

"Knowing Sunil Gavaskar well, I am sure he would have said it jokingly. Even in my case, people took it very seriously with the result that Anushka had to come out with her statement," said Engineer,



who during 2019 ICC World Cup, had found himself in a similar controversy after he reportedly said all that the Indian selectors were doing in England was getting Anushka "cups of tea".

Gavaskar himself has issued a clarification, saying his comments were misinterpreted.

"As you hear from the commentary, Aakash (Chopra) and I were doing commentary for an Hindi channel. And Aakash was talking about the fact that there

has been very little chance for proper practice for everybody. That has actually shown in the rustiness of some of the players in their first matches," Gavaskar told India Today.

"Rohit (Sharma) didn't strike the ball well in his first match, MSD (MS Dhoni) didn't strike the ball well, Virat (Kohli) also didn't strike the ball. Most of the batsmen have because of the lack of practice," he said.

"That was the point that was being made. Virat also had no practice and the only

practice that they had when they were seen them playing in their building compound and Anushka was bowling to him. That's what I said," he added.

The former India captain further explained: "She was bowling to him, that's all. Where am I blaming her? Where am I being sexist in this? I am just stating what was seen in the video which was maybe recorded by somebody in the neighbouring buildings and then put up. That's the only thing I am doing."

'We need to improve our boundary percentage'

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) captain David Warner said that the team needs to increase the frequency of their boundaries and sixes after they sunk to a seven-wicket loss to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) here on Saturday. SRH have thus started their 2020 campaign in the IPL with consecutive defeats. "We have to try and go harder at the top. Can't help if the bowlers are bowling good lines and lengths, we need to push as hard as we can," said Warner on Star Sports after the match. "You can see from our running between the wickets, we do that but we got to improve our boundary percentage. I saw, I think 35 dot balls, which not acceptable in T20 cricket on a wicket that was actually nice to bat on. We just mis-executed in the middle."

Warner had chosen to bat first after winning the toss, the first captain to do so this year. SRH only managed to score 142 runs despite losing only four wickets in 20 overs but Warner said that



he sticks by his decision at the toss. "For us, our strength is death bowling. I thought it was actually a difficult wicket to accelerate on. The Kolkata boys showed us that if you can keep wickets at the end, that's what wins you games. I don't regret what I did at the beginning of the game and I stick by my decision," he said. "Pat Cummins, as he does, (bowled) Test match line and length. There was a little bit of movement here and there. All in all, it got harder through the middle."

Today's fixture
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE VS MUMBAI INDIANS AT 7.30 PM

I want Gill to enjoy his journey: Karthik

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain Dinesh Karthik said that he wants Shubman Gill to enjoy his cricket journey, after the youngster's 70 not out guided the team to a comprehensive seven-wicket win against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Saturday.

"It feels good to see the youngsters doing well. I want Gill to enjoy his journey in cricket," said Karthik in the post-match presentation ceremony. Kamlesh Nagarkoti, 20, who missed the previous two sea-

sons due to injuries, also finally made his debut for KKR. Karthik said he was emotional for Nagarkoti and is happy that the franchise decided to stick with him. "The fact that we've been able to groom youngsters, we've stayed with them. I was a bit emotional for Kamlesh. We stuck with him and people ask where he is. It feels good as a captain," he said.

Gill was player of the match for his batting performance. "I've practiced power hitting a lot in the past couple of years. I think it was

really important for our team to get this win. We bowled really well, it had to be backed by our batting performance," he said. Gill's unbeaten 92-run stand with England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan helped KKR survive a short scare while they chased down SRH's meager total of 142/4. KKR ended up reaching 145/3 in 18 overs. "[Morgan] was batting so well. There weren't any long conversations. As an opener it is my job to see the team through," he said.

Delhi Capitals have a good balance: Nortje

Dubai (IANS): Having played a vital role in Delhi Capitals' emphatic 44-run win against the Chennai Super Kings, South African pacer Anrich Nortje will look to continue the same run of form in his debut Indian

Premier League (IPL) season.

Nortje, who went wicket-less in his debut game against Kings XI Punjab, finally opened his account on Friday at the cricket extravaganza by scalping two crucial wickets against MS

Dhoni-led CSK in his second outing. While defending the total of 176 runs, he bagged his first IPL wicket in the form of Murali Vijay during the last powerplay over and then removed Kedar Jadhav in the 16th over to put his side in the driver's seat.

Teams have revelled in 20th over, scoring average of 14.54 runs

Sharjah (IANS): In T20 format, the 20th over of an innings is usually the most productive one for batsmen as they go for the slog in the final six deliveries. And it has been no different so far in the 13th Indian Premier League (IPL) edition as an average of 14.54 runs have been scored in the 20th overs till the end of the eighth game between

Kolkata Knight Riders and SunRisers Hyderabad on Saturday.

Cumulatively, 189 runs have been scored off 78 balls (bowled as part of 20th overs) in eight matches.

Apart from the 20th over, the other most productive over of an innings is 18th in which an average of 11.80 runs have been

scored and in the 17th over, an average of 10.44 until Saturday, according to veteran cricket statistician Mohandas Menon.

Interestingly, the 19th over has been not so productive for the batting teams. "Since the 19th over is always bowled by the best bowlers of teams, the runs scored per over are just 9.14," Menon told IANS.



LeBron James ends Lakers' 10-year Finals drought

New York (IANS): Los Angeles Lakers earned a comfortable 117-107 win against Denver Nuggets in Game 5 to win Western Conference Finals 4-1 in their latest encounter of the ongoing NBA season.

Saturday night's game was the 10th NBA Finals appearance for LeBron James and first in a decade for Lakers.

This will be Lakers' 32nd NBA Finals, most in the history of the NBA. Lakers, who last won a championship in 2010 with Kobe Bryant, now have a chance to equal the tally of 17 titles, a record held by their arch-rivals Boston Celtics who are also contesting for a place in the Finals.

James was an unstoppable juggernaut with 38 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists on 15-for-25 shooting in Game 5, all this in his 17th NBA season. Anthony Davis' 27 points was icing on the cake. For Nuggets, Nikola Jokic and Jerami Grant each scored 20 points.

"My teammates said bring us home and it was my responsibility to try to make the right plays

and do the right things on the floor to help us win ballgames," James said during a trophy presentation as per an NBA release.

Lakers head coach Frank Vogel lavished praise on James. "I just feel like he has had a chip on his shoulder all year long. Everybody has doubters and to be in the Eastern Conference and get there as much as he had and now to come over the Western Conference and to do it with a third team is just an enormous accomplishment. So much respect and love for him. He has empowered this whole group by buying into the plan we had and how we wanted to play this year," said Vogel. Vogel's counterpart Michael Malone also hailed James as one of the greatest of all time.

"If you just step back and marvel at what LeBron is doing at this stage of his career, how he finds ways to improve and get better and take whatever team he is on to new heights, that defines his greatness. He is one of the greatest ever to do it and his resume speaks for itself," said Malone.



Hamilton greatest F1 driver of our generation, says Serena

New Delhi (IANS): Twenty-three-time tennis Grand Slam champion Serena Williams has heaped praise on Lewis Hamilton, saying the reigning Formula 1 world champion is the "greatest driver of our generation" and that he would break German legend Michael Schumacher's record.

"Lewis Hamilton and I have been super close, we have known each other for years, I love that guy, he has such a champion



mindset, I look at what he does in training," said Serena in a video posted on the official handle of F1.

"He is for me, the greatest

driver our generation has seen and I am confident that he will break the record of Michael Schumacher. He lives his life on his sleeve, he says what he says, and this is the one thing I really appreciate about him," she added.

Mercedes' Hamilton on Saturday took his 96th pole position ahead of the Russian Grand Prix and would be looking to equal Schumacher's record of 91 race wins on Sunday.

Every country needs a good league and good teams playing in it: Bhaichung

New Delhi (IANS): Iconic footballer and former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia, who has all along been vocal about the inclusion of East Bengal and Mohun Bagan in the Indian Super League (ISL), is happy about the two giants of Indian football joining the country's top league in the current session.

Mohun Bagan have already become a part of the ISL this session by joining hands with ATK, an ISL franchise. And with Sree Cement joining East Bengal as their investor, the Red and Gold brigade is also set to join the ISL band wagon.

Bhaichung feels that it's a win-win situation for everyone.

Speaking to IANS, the legendary footballer said, "I think everybody will benefit from this



association. East Bengal and Mohun Bagan need a platform like the ISL, and ISL also needs clubs like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. These clubs have a huge

fan base. So, to me, everybody is going to benefit. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Setting aside the general perception that ISL organisers were

reluctant to adopt these two big names in the ISL fold, Bhaichung said that it takes time to take a call on legacy clubs like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan.

"Adopting clubs like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan takes time. They thought it was not important initially, but I don't think the ISL management ever thought that they will not include East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. It was only a matter of time I guess," Bhaichung said.

"Every country needs a good league and good teams playing in it. And a good league with good teams will only help the development of football in the country," Bhaichung said.

The former India skipper also feels that a professional body running the country's top league

under the guidance of the national football federation is nothing new. This is happening all over the world.

When asked about the country's top league being managed by a private body, the former India skipper said, "I don't think so. The top leagues around the world are being managed by separate parties."

Bhaichung had earlier expressed his happiness over the fact that East Bengal have finally got an investor.

"I am very happy that finally East Bengal have got an investor and are hopeful of playing in the ISL this year. I am really happy for the fans. They have been praying to see East Bengal play in the top league," he told IANS earlier.



Lahiri rockets up the leaderboard

Punta Cana (IANS): Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri has entered the top-10 of the Corales Puntacana Championship after the third round of the tournament.

On Saturday, Lahiri matched the day's low round of 64 to rocket into a share of seventh place, six behind the leader. China's Xinjun Zhang fired seven birdies en route to a 4-under 68 to stay in contention.

The 33-year-old Indian was delighted to break into the top-10 after starting his week on Thursday with a triple bogey and bogey in his opening three holes before fighting back for an opening 69. He followed it up with a second round 72 which featured four birdies against as many bogeys, before producing a flawless 64 on Saturday which propelled him into a share of seventh place. He currently ranks first in Putts per Green in Regulation.

"It was great. It was, like you said, especially nice to have a clean card. I've made a bunch of

silly errors over the last two days and I've been playing better than my score would suggest, so I knew that I had to come out and kind of tighten up, focus a little bit more. Hit my irons a lot better today, put some work in yesterday afternoon and I'm glad it paid off," said Lahiri.

The round of 64 marks Lahiri's lowest on Tour since a second-round 61 (-9) at the 2018 A Military Tribute At The Greenbrier. He is looking for his first top-10 finish on TOUR since a T10 at the 2018 Mayakoba Golf Classic in Mexico.

EB's inclusion throws open limitless opportunities: Nita

Mumbai (IANS): Nita Ambani, chairperson and founder of the Reliance Foundation, on Sunday announced the expansion of Indian Super League (ISL) by welcoming East Bengal into the seventh edition of country's top-flight football league.

Following Shree Cement East Bengal Foundation acquisition of majority stake in East Bengal Club and their successful bid, the Kolkata football giant will embark on its maiden ISL journey as the eleventh team in the competition.

"It is such a happy and proud moment for ISL as we welcome East Bengal FC and their millions of fans into the league. The inclusion of both legacy clubs, i.e. East Bengal and Mohun Bagan (now ATK Mohun Bagan) opens limitless possibilities for Indian football, especially for talent development in the state," said Nita in a statement.

"West Bengal has made an immense contribution to the growth of the beautiful game in India. ISL's growing footprint

in the state and across India, is yet another step towards our mission of building a competitive and robust football ecosystem in the country," she added.

The ISL, in its seventh edition, will be played behind



closed doors at three venues - Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda; GMC Athletic Stadium, Bambolim; and Tilak Maidan Stadium, Vasco. East Bengal's arch rivals Mohun Bagan, after its merger with ATK, will also make its debut in this ISL season.