

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



**Why should we be worried?
We have better
actors.**

MANJUL

Womenia

Fashion choices that may make you look aging

TEJAL SINHA

Putting your best foot forward when it comes to what you wear to work can have a huge impact on your career.

According to a survey, people who are more physically attractive are treated better at work. Looking older than you are can distract potential employers and superiors from seeing the youthful exuberance behind your work ethic.

Aditi Agarwal, Founder of Aditi Agarwal Fashion styling services said, "Fashion trends may come and go, but the clothes you wear to work shouldn't make you look older than you are." You can dress fashionably at work and avoid dating yourself by passing on the below attires:

1. Completely black attire

You can still wear black, but opt for pops of color to balance out its aging abilities. Wearing shades of red-violet can provide a youthful appearance especially for women over 40. If the trends of 2020 fashion week are any indicator, you will see successful people in the office wearing pops of red, green, and saffron yellow in order to exude confidence, growth, and enthusiasm.

2. Oversized blazers

Trendy blazers can be a fashionable way to flaunt fashion in the office, but an ill-fitting blazer can date your style and make you look older. Even though oversized power suits can be fashion-forward, if it's too baggy, it can add unwarranted years to your age.

The oversized blazer trend may not be as popular with men, but wearing a baggy blazer can leave a man looking disheveled and older

than they actually are. To create a more polished look, men can opt for tailored jackets that accentuate their frame.

3. Un-tailored suits

Speaking of tailored jackets, a well-fitted suit can do wonders for any person's work attire. Regardless of how much your suit costs, to begin with, going the extra mile and having the suit tailored to fit your exact frame can shave years off of your look.

Extreme tightness or looseness shouldn't be felt

4. Skirts too long

The skirt is a mainstay of business attire for women, but if your skirt is too long, it can make you look even older than you actually are. Inside Out Style reported that while a midi-length skirt can look ladylike when worn with heels, it can age older women unnecessarily. If you still want to wear a skirt, aim for a knee-length pencil style. There are also ways to rock a miniskirt in your office over the summer if you find the right skirt and

pair it with a tailored blazer or colored shirt tucked in.

5. Baggy jeans

Wearing jeans is a reality for many professionals today. If your office allows a more laid back look or even if they just have casual Fridays jeans may be your go-to pant. However, if your jeans hang off of your figure, leaving them too loose, it can make you look older than you are.

A recent study found that 80 per cent of managers said that they believe that what you wear to work can impact your chances of getting a promotion



Eat clean and healthy for glowing skin

The food that we consume plays an intrinsic part in keeping skin and hair healthier. Skin is the largest organ of our body and the one that gets easily affected by external factors like pollution. Environmental factors like these can often lead to multiple skin concerns like uneven skin tone. While skin-cleansing and external application help, they often run short of providing that desired glowing look.

Aarti Gill, Co-founder of OZiva shares, "For healthier and radiant skin, it is important to provide nourishment to the skin from within since these treatments are effective only when the skin is healthy and supple. There are several factors that account for skin dullness. There are multiple factors that contribute to skin health and it is important to be aware of the physiological reasons that lead to poor skin quality. The lack of proper dietary habits leads to certain nutritional deficiencies in our body. This results in sustained skin damage which often renders all external applications of skin care products ineffective."

Drink lots of water

Nutritionists and experts will vouch for the positive effects of a well hydrated body on skin. Drinking lots of water is central to healthy and moisturised skin. Water acts as a natural detoxifier and aids in cleansing internal toxins via various elimination processes such as urine and sweat. It is also essential to consume good amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content like cucumber, watermelon, grapefruit, strawberry,

cantaloupe, etc. as they help in reinstating the moisture in the skin which fosters skin health.

Eat plenty of fresh seasonal produce

It is important to eat the best fruits and vegetables of the season such as berries, oranges,



Cut down on sugar and highly processed foods

Too much sugar can pose major health detriments to the skin such as dull skin and skin damage. Consuming excess amounts of sugary foods and fizzy soft drinks is known to affect skin and hair tissues. It is also imperative to steer clear of artificial sweeteners as they contain large traces of fructose and aspartame which reduce the natural vigour of the skin. Processed foods are full of synthetic ingredients and agents that affect your overall health. Cutting these down from your diet can have positive effects on the skin too.

Consume fats that are healthy

As skin is primarily composed of fat cells, it is essential to consume sufficient quantities of healthy fat that accentuates the natural elasticity and shine of the skin. It is pertinent to refrain from eating unhealthy fats that are found in processed junk food as they render our skin dull and lifeless. Eating healthy sources of fat such as nuts, olive oil, and avocado help in making the skin radiant, supple, and invigorated.

Manage stress levels

Mental health and stress levels are known to affect skin adversely. Stress related breakouts are very common among people of all ages. It can also lead to skin dullness. Ensure that you take care of your mental wellbeing by adopting practices like yoga and meditation. Learn to relax and enjoy some me-time to keep yourself refreshed always.



Upgrade your style and switch to 'Hoops'

Hoops are versatile pieces of jewellery. While it suits everyone, no wonder its trend is making a glamorous this summer season. It will be available in different sizes and colours, so you are definitely going to add a few in your collection. Learn about the latest trends and how you can pull them off like a pro

Multiple Hoops

For those who are not sat-

isfied with just one, multiple hoops to your rescue. Wear these earrings for a brunch and you will for sure get a few compliments.

Large Hoops

Large hoops are subtle, yet playful and can be paired with every outfit. Whether it's for a toned-down day look or a flashy night out, these babies will have you covered for every outing!

Textured Hoops

The hoops have gotten an upgrade with textures and beads added to them, making them suitable for casual outfits. Right from an ethnic dress to a western cocktail dress, these gorgeous numbers will help you amp up every possible look out there.

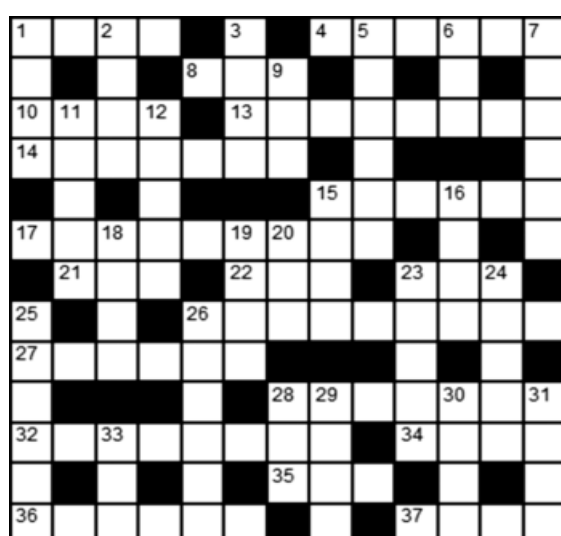
Enamel Hoops

Enamel hoop earrings are

donning this summer trend. Be it a lunch date or cocktail party, these earrings are the perfect choice for every occasion.

Stacked Hoops

A combination of the stacking jewellery trend and hoop earrings, these chunky pieces are impossible to miss and will help you take your style quotient to an all-time high.



SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 4

CROSSWORD

Across

- Sixth letter of the Greek alphabet (4)
- Calmed (6)
- Moved fast (3)
- Exploited (4)
- A rabble (8)
- Make longer or wider by pulling out (7)
- Chinese secret societies (6)
- Animal having a pouch (9)
- Rainy (3)
- Kind (3)
- A snake (3)
- Chief monk of Tibet (5,4)
- Raising of a siege (6)
- Scope (7)
- Jumpy one (8)
- Singing group (4)
- Swamp or morass (3)
- Dog (6)
- Adjoin (4)

Down

- Ruler of Olympus (4)
- Rank (4)
- Grape brandy (4)
- Unroll or unfold (6)
- Meadow (3)
- Disarm an explosive device (6)
- National Institute of Health, abbr. (3)
- Dry stalks (5)
- Believer in God (5)
- Currency of Bangladesh ? (4)
- Wild ox of Celebes (4)
- Lively old dance (4)
- French singer Edith (4)
- Unwell, sick (3)
- Puff up (5)
- Fine fiddle (5)
- Male ducks (6)
- Series of ten (6)
- Cropped hairstyle (3)
- Cross or crucifix (4)
- Dingy (4)
- Catcall (4)
- Louse egg (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 4

NEWS ROUNDUP

Bigg Boss 14: Kavita Kaushik in no mood to give explanation for stormy exit

Television actress Kavita Kaushik, who left the controversial reality show Bigg Boss 14 following a spat with fellow contestant Rubina Dilaik earlier this week, is in no mood to offer explanation for her behaviour.

"Dear youtubers, n those messaging n calling for interviews pls know that if I cared to give more explanations I would've stayed back n not walked out at will, you can go ahead n write or say anything, just if you paint me bad dont just stop at that, make me the devil. cheers!" Kavita tweeted from her verified account on Friday.

Kavita stormed out of the house during Wednesday's episode of the show, following a fight with house-mate couple Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla. Explaining her exit, Kavita had shared on

Thursday, "When the players take the game as low as themselves always leave on your thigh."

Supporting Kavita's decision, actress Kamya Punjabi had tweeted on Thursday, "One needs lot of guts to do that... people die to be in this game n can go till any extend to win it... u walked out of it, u have created history @Iamkavitak #KavitaKaushik #BB14 @ColorsTV." However, TV actress Devoleena Bhattacharjee found Kavita's behaviour strange. Soon after Kavita's exit, Devoleena tweeted: "Something is really wrong with #kavita.. #rubina shared personal thing as per the

task.. What was she doing then?? When it personal whatever she shared..Nobody is talking about that task but #kavita.. #BB14."



RSS-affiliated BKS wants Centre to ensure MSP

NEW DELHI

BREAKING its silence on the ongoing farmers' agitation, the RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) on Friday said it was in favour of ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) in government and private-run mandis, and making procurement of food grains below MSP a criminal offence.

A major reason why farmer unions on protest at Delhi borders have been demanding a complete rollback of the new laws is that these don't carry a provision to ensure that private players don't buy farmers' produce below the MSP, according to News18 report.

The BKS also demanded that the Modi government set up special agri courts to hear matters of dispute between farmers and private buyers instead of the current provision which stipulates that such disputes

be directed to the local SDM.

Veteran actor Dharmendra urged the central government to find a solution to farmers' protests over the farm laws, a day after he deleted a similar post on Twitter.

On Thursday, the 84-year-old actor had urged the government to resolve the protests soon, citing the growing number of coronavirus cases in Delhi. "I request the government... please quickly find a solution the farmers' problems... the number of corona cases are on a rise in Delhi... it is painful," Dharmendra had written in a post. However, the veteran actor soon deleted the post, without any explanation.

A user claimed that he must have deleted the post on the insistence of his son, actor and BJP MP from Gurdaspur Sunny Deol, Dharmendra replied, "I won't say anything about your mentality."

Punjabi singer-actor Harbhajan Mann announced



that he will not accept the state government's 'Shiromani Punjabi' Award, expressing solidarity with farmers protesting against the new central farm laws.

"Though I'm grateful to be selected, I humbly cannot accept the Shiromni Gayak award from the Department of Language. People's love is the biggest award of my career, & all attention & efforts right now from us all must be dedicated to the peaceful farmers' protest (sic)," Mann said on Twitter. Mann, along with many Punjabi singers and artists, has been supporting the farmers' agitation for the last several months. The singer-actor had also attended the farmers protest at the Delhi borders. "You had to be there to experience their energy, fervour & optimism. Former national boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu, during whose tenure India secured its maiden Olympic medal in the sport, said he will return his Dronacharya award if demands of the farm-

ers protesting against new agriculture laws are not addressed.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee spoke to various farmers' groups protesting at Delhi's Singhu border against the Centre's agriculture reform laws and assured them that the TMC stands by them, party leader Derek O'Brien said.

Brien, who spent almost four hours with the agitating farmers, facilitated the interactions over the phone. Enacted in September, the three farm laws are anticipated to bring "reforms" in the agriculture sector by removing middlemen and allowing farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country. Farmers worry these laws will eliminate the safety net of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and do away with mandis that ensure earning. But the government says the MSP system will continue and the new laws will give farmers more options to sell their crop.

Setback for BJP in Maha, Varanasi

MLC polls results show picture in Maha has changed: Pawar

BJP failed to judge MVA's strength: Fadnavis on poll results

MUMBAI/LUCKNOW

THE Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday suffered a major setback as the party managed to secure only one of the six seats in the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections, whereas the Maha Vikas Aghadi government won four seats, NDTV reported. The Opposition also won BJP's bastion in Nagpur and the crucial Pune seat. An independent candidate won the remaining seat.

BJP leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told ANI that the results of the polls were not what the party expected. "The results of Maharashtra Legislative Council polls are not as per our expectations. We were expecting more seats but won only one. We miscalculated the combined power of the three parties [Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena and Congress]."

The biggest setback to the BJP came from the Nagpur graduate constituency, which is the home turf of party's two senior leaders - Fadnavis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari. Both the political leaders as well as BJP's Maharashtra unit chief Chandrakant Patil had campaigned for the polls.

The Nagpur graduate seat was earlier represented by Gadkari and Devendra Fadnavis' father Gangadhar Rao Fadnavis. Gadkari had



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Supriya Sule is greeted by her party workers after the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) won Graduate and Teacher's constituencies, in Mumbai on Friday

won five times from the constituency before contesting the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

BJP candidate Sandip Joshi lost to Congress' Abhijit Wanjari, The Indian Express reported. Joshi is a former Nagpur mayor and is known to be close to Devendra Fad-

navis.

The NCP and the Congress had fielded its candidates in two seats each. The Shiv Sena contested in one seat. The BJP had put up candidates in four constituencies and an Independent supported by the party contested

from another seat.

"The picture has changed in the state," he added. Asked about state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil's statement that the outcome would have been different had the MVA constituents contested separately, Pawar said he was known for making comic statements.

Devendra Fadnavis said his party failed to gauge the combined strength of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies. He said the party will analyse the poll results and prepare for the next election in a better way. In a setback to the opposition party. "Now we know how big fight they can put up together. We will prepare better for the next polls." "We could only win one seat out of the six. We will analyse the results and plan for the next challenge. We will also discuss the issue of selection of candidates, though prima facie I think they were suitable ones," he said.

The BJP has won three seats in the UP Legislative Council, of the six where results have been announced. All these six seats are in the teachers' constituency. The BJP has won seats in the teachers' constituencies in Lucknow, Meerut and Bareilly.

Meanwhile, a major setback for the BJP is that the party candidate has lost Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency, where the Samajwadi Party's Lal Bihari Yadav has won the election.

'Farmers brought Modi govt to its knees'

MUMBAI

THE Shiv Sena on Friday said that the farmers from Punjab have brought the Modi government to its knees through their protest against the new farm laws and the world has taken note of the unity shown by them. The party also urged the Centre to hear out the demands of the protesting farmers. "Despite the winter chill, the farmers from Punjab have made the Modi government sweat.

The protesters seem to be getting aggressive. The Modi government had not faced this kind of a challenge earlier.

The government's usual weapons of CBI, Income Tax, ED and NCB are of no use in this case. The farmers have brought the government to its knees," the Sena said in an editorial in party mouthpiece 'Saamana'.

"They are firm on their demand that the three controversial farm laws must be repealed. They even declined food and water provided by the government during a round of talks," it said. The Uddhav Thackeray-led party hit out at the Modi government saying that it carried out "unjust" demonetisation, rolled out "devastating" GST.

It also alleged that in order to hide the issues of unemployment and inflation, the government made use of issues like India-Pakistan conflict. "It offered Ram temple to the people troubled by the lockdown. However, no lollipop worked before the farmers from Punjab. This is the success of Punjab's unity. All attempts were made by the BJP's IT cell to discredit the protest," the party said.



Sprinkle water before sweeping roads: NGT

NEW DELHI

NOTING that dust is a significant component of air pollution, the National Green Tribunal has directed all municipal corporations and local bodies in NCR and other cities where air quality is "poor" to ensure that water is sprinkled on roads before sweeping them. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the water used should be from sewage treatment plants and not fresh water. "We direct all the Municipal Corporations/Local Bodies in NCR where air quality levels are normally non-compliant and other cities with the air quality 'poor' and above to take necessary steps to ensure sprinkling of water before sweeping of roads," the bench said in its order uploaded on Friday. It also directed them to take further steps of planting of grass/raising small herbs and shrubs on the sides of the pavements/road shoulders and on open dusty areas, including the areas on the sides of the pavements/right of way. The pavements may also be appropriately covered so as to prevent generation of dust and attention also needs to be given to stop burning of biomass/waste and regulate construction and demolition activities, the NGT said.

Migrant labourer's son wins gold medal at IIT, Roorkee

PATNA

RAHUL KUMAR, 22, the son of a migrant worker from Sosandi, a non-descript village in Bihar's Nalanda district, has graduated from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, one of the premier educational institutes in the country.

Kumar's 52-year-old father Sunil Singh works on a power loom in Surat on a daily wage basis. He was compelled to shift to Gujarat since the small piece of land that the family owns in Bihar wasn't sufficient for him and his four siblings to earn a living.

During the annual convocation of the institute held via digital mode, Rahul, who completed his B. Tech in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, was awarded the President's Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal for his social initiatives.

Apart from being academically brilliant, Rahul has always been inclined towards the welfare of society and his zeal led him to become the General Secretary of National Service Scheme (NSS), IIT Roorkee.

Kumar has now won a scholarship to pursue his PhD at the University of Utah, United States and teach there as an assistant professor. "With his great leadership and managerial skills, he led a team of around 1,000 students and liaised with several college administrations, government officers, and NGOs in carrying out various events. His various initiatives in



the field of Youth Leadership has been widely acknowledged through awards and honours across platforms," Professor Ajit K Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee, told IANS.

"This year's convocation is special because of many reasons. The first and foremost reason is that our alumnus Ashok Soota is the Chief Guest. His presence is a matter of great pride for us. The second special reason is that this year's convocation is being presided over by BVR Mohan Reddy chairman of our board of Governors. He is a doyen of Indian industry who has agreed to spare some of his time for guiding the higher education sector in the country," added Chaturvedi.

Dr Vivek set to return as Surgeon General in Biden's America

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden has tapped his key COVID-19 advisor Dr Vivek Murthy as the next Surgeon General, a role for which he was appointed during the Obama administration and had to leave abruptly during the current Trump administration, according to a media report.

The 43-year-old Indian-American doctor is one of the three co-chairs of the Biden's COVID-19 Advisory Board. "Vivek H Murthy, a former US surgeon general, has been asked to reprise the role in an expanded version in the new administration," The Washington Post reported on Thursday, quoting an individual familiar with the decision. A formal announcement in this matter is expected soon.

Dr Anthony Fauci asked to join Biden's team; will urge Americans to wear masks for 100 days

The surgeon general serves a four-year term and is the top government official on public health issues. Jerome Adams is the incumbent Surgeon General. Murthy is expected to be part of a team of health-care officials charged with tackling the issue Biden has said would be his top priority upon taking office, according to people with knowledge of the matter, the report said. He was appointed as the Surgeon General on December 15, 2014, after being approved by a 51-43 Senate vote. He was relieved of his duties on April 21, 2017, by

President Donald Trump. Politico on Thursday reported that Murthy will return to that role, but with a broader portfolio that will include acting as the top medical expert and public face of the effort.

Another co-chair of the advisory board, Jeff Zients, is set to serve as the White House's COVID-19 coordinator, the report said. Co-founder and president of Doctors for America, Dr Murthy was a hospitalist attending physician and instructor in medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School, a position he has held since 2006. In 2011, Murthy was appointed to serve as a Member of the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health. Murthy has been the co-founder and Chairman of the Board of TrialNetworks, formerly known as Epernicus, since 2007.

CBI arrests Delhi BJP councillor in graft case

NEW DELHI

THE Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) on Friday said that it has arrested a BJP councillor from Delhi in a bribery case related to some construction work. CBI officials said accused Manoj Mehlawat, associated with the BJP, is a councillor from south Delhi's Vasant Kunj area. Agency sources said that Mehlawat

had allegedly demanded a bribe from a person with regard to the construction work and was caught red-handed following a complaint. After his arrest, the Delhi BJP said Mehlawat had been suspended from the primary membership of the party with immediate effect.

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Oh honey, this tastes bitter!

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has sure bombed us with its findings that most of our honey brands are not just adulterated but done so with a type of sugar syrup. Some of the big names include Dabur, Patanjali and Zandu. This adulteration is so fine that it could bypass some of the basic tests used to detect adulteration in honey. Of course, these companies denied it and claimed that their products meet the regulatory requirements laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The Director General of CSE, Sunita Narain, stated that the organisation launched an investigation when beekeepers in North India reported reduced profits despite a spike in honey sales during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sunita Narain was right in saying “it is a food fraud more nefarious and more sophisticated than what we found in our 2003 and 2006 investigations into soft drinks; more damaging to our health than perhaps anything that we have found till now — keeping in mind the fact that we are still fighting against a killer COVID-19 pandemic with our backs to the wall.” Researchers at the CSE selected 13 top and smaller brands of processed and raw honey being sold in India. Samples from these were tested at the Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) at the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Gujarat. Almost all, except Apis Himalaya, passed the basic tests of purity, the CSE said. However, when the same

brands were tested using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR) test, which was conducted by a specialised laboratory in Germany, most brands failed. Of the 13 tested, only three brands - Saffola, MarkfedSohna and Nature's Nectar - passed the NMR test. Whatever may be the claims of the companies in question in this regard, CSE's credibility rides them over when it says the products are adulterated. As for Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, it is the gold-standard for testing in this case. In fact, NMR test is specific to these modified sugar syrups. The business of adulteration is sophisticated. The syrups are imported from China (now also manufactured in India - Jaspur, Uttarakhand). The companies claim that even if up to 80 per cent of the honey is adulterated using the syrup it will go undetected. The technology is known as “resin

technology” used more in fruit juices. (China uses this more for bee honey purification). This is not acceptable to the world. A 2018 EU Commission report of the technical round table on honey authentication identified resin treatment as one of major types of frauds in the honey sector and noted that “synthetic resins are illegally used to remove substances (antibiotics, pesticides) from honey”. Clearly, such ultra-filtration renders the end product ineligible to be called honey, experts say as it masks the geographic and botanical origin of the honey, which not only helps in blending with desired honey and syrups but also makes it difficult to spot the problem. Some Indian companies claimed an international conspiracy to wipe out Indian competition. But, they did not deny using the syrup. What shall we do with this one, honey?



TN: Today's movie stars are tomorrow's CM aspirants

VENKATACHARI JAGANNATHAN

TODAY'S movie stars are tomorrow's political leaders and Chief Ministerial aspirants -- that is the trend in Tamil Nadu. The latest to join that club is actor Rajinikanth, who on Thursday announced his decision to float a political party in January 2021.

With this Rajinikanth puts an end to various speculations about his plunge into Tamil Nadu politics. Announcing this in a tweet he added: “In the upcoming assembly polls, with people's massive support, in Tamil Nadu, an honest, transparent corruption less, secular and spiritual politics is sure to happen.”

“Miracle, Wonder will happen,” he added. Speaking to reporters here Rajinikanth said: “The time has come to change the fate of Tamil Nadu. Political and government change in the state important. It will surely change. The political change is important and is compulsion of time. If not now, it is not possible ever. Everything has to be changed. We will change everything.”

He appealed to all to support him to bring in the change. “I am just a small instrument in the change. If I win then it is people's victory,” he added. With five chief ministers in the last five decades from the Tamil movie world, the way to the political power in Tamil Nadu is through tinsel town.

Five of the state's chief ministers - C.N. Annadurai, M. Karunanidhi, M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), Janaki Ramachandran and J. Jayalalitha - had their roots in filmdom, while several other actors showed an interest in politics.

However, the trend of movie hero turning into a mass political leader was started by MGR who broke away from DMK and to float All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and went on to become the state Chief Minister. In the upcoming 2021 Tamil Nadu assembly polls, the movie heroes who will be contesting would be: Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan and A. Vijaykant.

While Annadurai and Karunanidhi were involved in writing the story, screenplay and dialogues of movies, it was MGR who became the first actor-turned-Chief Minister. The state has seen and is seeing several actor-turned-politicians like the late Sivaji Ganesan, T. Rajendar, M. Karthi, Vijayakanth with the DMDK, Sarathkumar with his

All India Samathuva Makkal Katchi, Director and actor Seeman with his Naam Tamilar Katchi and recently Kamal Haasan floating the MNM.

There are several other actors like R. Ramarajan, Vagai Chandrasekhar, Napoleon, Khushbu, C.R. Saraswathi, Anantharaj, Radha Ravi and others who have joined the AIADMK, the DMK and the BJP.

Barring MGR and Jayalalitha, no other actor has captured power in the state fighting elections. In 1972 MGR broke away from DMK and floated AIADMK and in 1977 captured power in the state in 1977. He continued to be the state Chief Minister till his death in 1987.

He was succeeded by his wife Janaki Ramachandran and later by J. Jayalalitha, a popular heroine in Tamil movies. In 2005, Vijaykant, an action hero known to perform stunts in movies without a double, floated his DMDK party as an alternative to the two dominant Dravidian parties -- the AIADMK and the DMK.

“Vijaykant had his fan club in nook and corner of the state. The set up was great and it was converted into a political party. He had developed the fan club like a political party set up,” political analyst Kolahala Srenivaas told IANS.

When he fought the 2006 assembly polls alone without aligning with any party, the DMDK notched up an impressive vote share, better than even the established MDMK and PMK. In the 2006 assembly polls the party contested in all the 234 assembly elections and got about 10 per cent vote share. Barring Vijaykant who won from Virudhachalam seat, all other party candidates lost the polls.

Then DMDK became a most sought after party for alliance, more so for DMK. Alinging with AIADMK in 2011, the DMDK became the second largest party in the assembly and Vijaykant became the Leader of the Opposition.

Later the party witnessed dissensions and some long time office bearers broke away. The party now has lost its steam with Vijaykant's health not up to the mark. Over the years the DMDK's vote share has come down.

In 2018, Kamal Haasan floated his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) party in Madurai. The party contested independently in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and got about four per cent vote share while all the party candidates lost.

In 2021 assembly polls the party plans to contest lead by Kamal Haasan. The other action hero Sarath Kumar floated The All India Samathuva Makkal Katchi in 2007. The party mostly contested in alliance with AIADMK and its own vote share is not known.

The other notable politician import from Tamil movie world is Seeman who has floated Naam Tamilar Katchi. The party has been contesting in the polls without aligning with any other party.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls Naam Tamilar Katchi had polled four per cent, logging three per cent vote growth over the earlier assembly polls.

“In terms of growth, it is only Kamal Haasan's MNM and Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi has the growth opportunity. While MNM can cut into urban votes of other parties-mainly DMK-Seeman's party can gain in the rural areas,” a political analyst not wanting to be quoted told IANS.

But such a scenario is bound to change with the entry of Rajinikanth the latest movie hero to enter the state politics. “He is super caste neutral. He can attract all voter segments - urban, rural, apolitical, small, micro communities. It is going to impact all the parties,” the analyst added.

The next probable actor in the political line could be Vijay. However last month he distanced himself from the political party floated by his father and movie director S.A. Chandrasekhar. Vijay urged his fans not to join or serve the party just because his father started.

The actor said there is no connection between his father's party and his fan's movement. “I also hope that appropriate action will be taken against them if they engage in any activities involving my name or photo or the name of Vijay Makkal Iyakkam,” Vijay had said.

Soul searching time for TRS, BJP on a roll



V RAMU SARMA

NEVER did municipal elections witness this kind of high decibel campaign and generate so much of curiosity nor did they cause so much of nerve biting moments for major political parties. This election also amply exposed the bias of various media including social media which went by personal likes and dislikes instead of trying to find the real pulse of the people.

This election is certainly a second wake up call for the TRS. The first wake up call was after the Dubbaka by election results where BJP had won the polls. The state is yet to face two more municipal elections, Warangal and Khammam along with elections for two MLC seats Nalgonda and Hyderabad graduates constituency and a by election to Nagarjuna Sagar assembly constituency following the death of TRS MLA Nomula Nar-simhaiah.

An impartial analysis of the poll results shows that the TRS has to blame itself for the rise of BJP in the so called Galli elections. After coming to power in the newly carved state in 2014, the TRS adopted the strategy of decimating opposition parties particularly the Congress and TDP. The process continued till recently. If these parties were alive, the anti-incumbency votes would have got divided and TRS could have been in a much safer position.

From having won 99 out of 150 seats on its own in 2016 GHMC elections, the TRS this time suffered a setback as it has landed in a situation where it cannot elect the mayor even with the votes of ex-officio members. On the other hand, the BJP which had won only in 4 wards this time nearly touched 50. Another interesting aspect is that in almost all the places where TRS had deputed its ministers as in-charges,

the BJP had gained and won.

For example Sabitha Indra Reddy was in charge of RK Puram area, in Sanathnagar which is represented by the city minister who has been a high profile minister in TRS and is considered to be the voice of TRS, BJP has made won in three divisions while pink party retained three. There are six wards in his assembly constituency.

Similarly another minister Jagdish Reddy was incharge of Saroornaga and here too BJP won. In Mushheerabad where K Kavitha was in-charge, BJP won. In Habsiguda, the TRS MLA's wife lost. While in the upmarket area of Jubilee Hills BJP has won. MIM however managed to retain its hold and lost just one seat compared to 2016.

Though many people have been claiming that the BJP has lost in areas like Kukatpally where settlers from Andhra Pradesh are there, one should see the other side of the coin as well. The areas like Dilsukhnagar, LB Nagar, Gaddiannaram, Moosarambagh, Nagole etc are the areas where people from Andhra had come and settled down more than four decades back. There the saffron flag flew high. All this clearly indicates that the areas which were affected by severe floods, the BJP has been able to win. Apparently, the Rs 10,000 aid given by TRS did not help the pink party as it was expected.

The TRS did smell the rat but a bit late. Initially, it was of the view that GHMC polls should be delayed. But somehow it hurried in holding the elections now and in shortest possible time. The TRS felt that if opposition gets more time, the damage may be much bigger. But this strategy seems to have misfired.

The high decibel campaign that if BJP is opted for, there would be communal disturbances and people should choose whether they want destruction or development also did not seem to have cut much ice with the voters. The charge that BJP was scared and hence it was bringing flood of people from Delhi for Galli elections did not work.

Here one should understand that the BJP's high-pitched Hy-



All political parties including the BJP which is riding high following its stunning victory in GHMC polls should understand that it's time a serious thought is given to the language that is being used against its opponents during elections. Hope the victory makes BJP emerge as more responsible and sensible party while the ruling party should make a real analysis as to why it suffered such a setback and take practical measures to ensure that a healthy political system prevails in the State

derabad campaign seemed to be well thought out as part of the larger plan of making in-roads in Telangana ahead of 2022 or 2023 assembly elections. The polls in the city were important for BJP as 24 assembly segments fall under the GHMC limits.

This election was vital for BJP not just to move forward and fill the political vacuum in Telangana but it will be a showcase for the West Bengal elections as well. The kind of polarisation the BJP could achieve here would be done on a larger scale in West Bengal. If BJP succeeds in coming to power there or at least emerge as the major opposition, it certainly would be a cause of concern for the regional parties elsewhere when the country would go in for one nation one election.

If one makes a little deeper analysis, the change in political culture over past few decades along with the growth of regional parties is also responsible for the

ruling parties to think on lines of one state one party. This quality is also being attributed of late to the BJP at national level. We have seen how the MLAs go into leader worship in all regional parties and how the social media too has been taking sides on party lines abusing and threatening who speak against the party in power in any state.

Coming back to GHMC poll results, it can also be said that the TRS which had been tasting victory in all elections since 2014 failed even to acknowledge within the party that there was an undercurrent of anti-incumbency. The failure of creating jobs, delay in allotting two bed room houses though they were promised in the TRS-1 government and the gap in the promises and implementation led to major setback for TRS. In many places the victory margin between the TRS and BJP candidates was not more than 500 to 600 votes.

The results indicate that the

TRS had perhaps committed the same mistake which TDP had done in 2019 election in Andhra Pradesh. TDP went too personal on Modi and made several allegations against BJP. In this election the TRS tried to rake up sympathy factor saying that the state was giving over Rs two lakh crore as taxes but was getting back only pea nuts and that what was due to it as per the norms only. The rest of the money, the BJP was spending in development of Varanasi and other states like Bihar.

It also went on to accuse Modi at a personal level. May be all political parties including the BJP which is riding high following its stunning victory in GHMC polls should understand that it's time a serious thought is given to the language that is being used against its opponents during elections. Hope the victory makes BJP emerge as more responsible and sensible party while the ruling party should make a real analysis as to why it suffered such a setback and take practical measures to ensure that a healthy political system prevails in the State.

The political parties should make less claims that only their programmes and policies are unique in the world and instead take measures to plug loopholes in electoral process and anti-defection laws and create a healthy political system. The social media too should stop indulging in hero worship and start coming up with positive outlook and balanced comments.

LETTERS

Reality check for KCR

IN spite of the ruling TRS employing its entire machinery and also upsetting the election routine by resorting to ballot boxes rather than EVMs, the TRS has got to admit that they have been served notice by the public to mend its ways. KCR is busy appeasing minorities and resorting to spend public money to pay obeisance to deities. He has been busy building flyovers instead of setting right the deeply flawed infrastructure of the city which contributes major share of the state's revenue. It is time KCR and his family mended their ways and try do something to the state's common man.

J Kannan, Hyderabad

Rajini finally says ‘Yes’

THE decision by the silver screen superstar Rajinikanth to establish a political party and be active in politics to serve the people is welcome. It is an undeniable fact that there exists a close relationship between film industry and politics. However, silver screen stardom is not enough in politics. The majority of the political analysts opine that establishing a new political party within six months before the state assembly elections and contesting in all the constituencies is preposterous. Rajinikanth had given an ambiguous indication of entering into politics in the year 2017.

Since then, his fans and followers have been in a dilemma as there was no clear indication of Rajini's involvement in active politics. Depending solely on the fan base may not yield good results. One should remember that veteran actor Sivaji Ganesan, who enjoyed an enormous fan base, had an unsuccessful political career. At present, Rajini has to build his party at the grassroots

level. He may float the party with his tinsel image, but it might be a challenging task to match the organisational machinery of the Dravidian parties like DMK and AIADMK. He has to garner the votes of neutral franchises and the anti-incumbency votes to make his presence felt.

If he becomes the Chief Minister, he will be the sixth chief minister from the Tamil film industry after Annadurai, Karunanidhi, MGR, Janaki Ramachandran and Jayalalitha. Even if he doesn't become chief minister, it would be a great accomplishment, if Rajini can bring change in the common man's negative perception that politics is murky and they involve only mudslinging to positive. He has decided to be active in politics and bring some change to the routine murky politics. But, there should not be a large gap between his political aspirations and efforts. Let's wait and see whether Rajini can bring the wave of resurgence in the politics of Tamil Nadu.

Dr Mejari Mallikarjuna, Nadigadda, Sadum Mandal, Chittoor district

II

RAJINIKANTH launching a political party without a clear agenda will be a failure as proved in the instances of Shivaji Ganesan and Chiranjeevi unlike MGR and NTR, who proved successful as they were conscious of people's problems and solutions there of (Rajini party in Jan; to fight 2021 polls, December 4). Against such a backdrop and inview of his poor health, Rajinikanth should keep away from politics and preserve the already earned reputation. After all, one can very well serve the society without joining politics.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

Stooge of the Sangh Parivar?

SUPERSTAR Rajinikanth has sprung a surprise by announcing his decision to float a party at the turn of the year. His foray into politics is significant in that it could redraw the political contours in Tamil Nadu. Rajinikanth has been phenomenally successful in the entertainment industry. From humble beginnings he has

risen to become Thalaiva for his fans. The support of his fans for him borders on idolatry. His fan base is the sole solid asset he has to make it as a politician.

The seamless conversion of his fans' club into a viable political organization can turn out to be a daunting task. Many of his fans could already be members of other political parties; they may have their own ideological convictions; they may find it hard to transition into a new party for all their loyalty and devotion to their demi-god.

As an actor, Rajinikanth has scaled the heights of his profession and made a mark for himself with his imitable style called ‘Rajini style’. His heroics and histrionics on the screen have won him rapturous applause. But then politics is a different arena altogether and requires more than cinema-style gimmicks. Acting skills don't make leadership qualities. Reel life is vastly different from real life. An actor could be as clueless in the political sphere as a politician in the tinsel world. The distance between the realm of fantasy and the rough and tumble of politics remains as great as ever. Rajinikanth has to now demonstrate that he has it in him to travel the distance.

The biggest stumbling block for Rajinikanth's emergence as a widely acceptable leader and the ‘translation’ of his appeal as a film hero into votes is his identification with the Hindu Right. He has already been called out on his support for the right-wing Hindutva-oriented political forces. By his postures, he has earned the epithet ‘a closet Sanghi’ and displayed his credentials to be a natural ally of the BJP. His ‘saffron politics’ is what is couched in his ‘spiritual politics’. His choice of a BJP hand – Arun Murthy – as the new party's coordinator is telling. It is not clear why he is launching a new party instead of joining the BJP.

Despite his claimed assimilation into the Tamil society he betrays an inability to cherish the Dravidian movement and its mores. He is a pygmy to counter the ideals of Periyar; he is only a stooge of the Sangh Parivar; he is unlikely to script a success story in Tamil Nadu politics; it would indeed take a miracle for him not to come a cropper in his tryst with politics.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

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State likely to get 1 cr doses of vaccine, puts infra in place

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh is expected to get one crore doses of the prospective vaccine for coronavirus in the next three to four months, said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy here on Friday.

The state government was fully gearing up for administering the vaccine, he said.

Winding up a short discussion in the Legislative Assembly on Covid-19 containment measures, the Chief Minister spelt out the government's plan to administer the vaccine once it became available.

The Centre indicated that the vaccine would be available in 3-4 months and one crore people would be covered in the first phase in the state.

"We got signals to that effect from the Centre. Accordingly, we are readying necessary cold chains and human resources," Jagan said.

In the first phase, 3.6 lakh health care workers, seven lakh frontline staff of other departments, including police and sanitation workers, and 90 lakh people above 50 would be given the vaccine, he said.

The Chief Minister said 4,065 cold chains at 2-8 degree centigrade and 29 refrigerated vehicles were ready to handle the coronavirus vaccine.

The Centre would supply necessary cold boxes and syringes.

He said 19,000 ANMs (Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery) would be used for administering the vaccine while Asha workers were also being trained for the purpose.

Task forces were constituted at the state, district and mandal-levels to ensure distribution of the vaccine.

The Chief Minister, however, said people should take all precautions for some more months. Even if the vaccine for

- CM says there have been indications from Centre that vaccine will be supplied in 3-4 months
- The govt is preparing infrastructure like cold chains and human resources to meet the needs of vaccination



₹16,000 cr being spent to strengthen healthcare: Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MINISTER for health and family welfare Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas (Nani) said the state government was spending Rs 16,000 for strengthening the medical and health services in the state under Naadu-Nedu programme. Primary health centres (PHCs), district hospitals, area hospitals and general hospitals will be developed and modernised in a phased manner.

The minister participated in the discussion on medical and health and Covid-19 pandemic in the state on Friday, the last day of the five-day winter session of Legislature. Alla Nani said the state government had expanded the Aarogyasri network services by increasing the number of procedures under the scheme from 1,059 to 2,436 and bringing in treatment for Covid, dengue and cancer under its purview.

He further said patients under the Aarogyasri can undergo treat-

- Medical and Health Minister says PHCs, district and general hospitals are being modernised under Naadu-Nedu
- Lists out a slew of measures taken by the YSRCP govt including expansion of Aarogyasri bringing in more diseases under its ambit and permission to get treatment in neighbouring States
- Alla Nani points out that the previous TDP govt neglected the Aarogyasri by kept payments to network hospitals in pending

ment in 1,246 empanelled hospitals in Andhra Pradesh and 137 corporate hospitals in cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru in neighbouring states. The state government has released Rs 631 crore for network hospitals under Aarogyasri, he said while reminding that during the previous TDP government medical bills to the tune of Rs 477 crore were kept pending.

The medical and health minister said the YSRCP government had released the bills to the hospitals to help the people get treat-

ment in these hospitals. Contract workers and outsourcing workers working in various state government departments can take treatment under Aarogyasri. He recalled the empanelled hospitals were unwilling to treat the Aarogyasri cardholders during the TDP rule due to non-payment of bills. People with income levels up to Rs 5 lakh per year can take the treatment under the Aarogyasri, he said and added that financial assistance of Rs 225 per day was given to patients suffering from some diseases.

Covid-19 is available, everyone will not get it in one-go. So, we need to be careful for some

more time. The cases could go up in winter months, he said. There is a surge in cases in

states like Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh with dip in temperature, he said. (PTI)

TDP takes out rally over pending NREGS bills

- Allege that the govt kept bills pending for 18 months out of political vendetta
- Rs 2,600 cr swallowed for painting but pending bills not being paid
- Say that no works have been taken up in villages since the YSRCP came to power

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP MLAs and MLCs led by Leader of Opposition and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday took out a rally up to the Assembly premises, demanding payment of pending NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) dues for the works completed in rural areas all over the state.

Later, they staged a walkout from the Assembly highlighting the failure of the government in payment of NREGS bills.

The TDP leaders criticised that the YSRCP government was deliberately avoiding payment of the bills despite the orders from the Central government and the courts. The rally



Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu along with his party legislators taking part in a protest rally to Assembly on Friday

was taken out from Maruti Showroom to the Assembly premises.

Besides Naidu, TDP deputy leader K Atchannaidu, national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh, MLAs Anagani Satya Prasad, Yeluri Sambasiva Rao and others participated.

Holding placards and raising slogans, the TDP legislators said that the bills were not being paid out of political vengeance. Moreover, the YSRCP regime was also not taking up any works under the NREGS in the villages for the last 18 months. But, the ruling party leaders were claiming payments by submitting fake and bogus bills

on works that were never taken up. Very strangely, bills for completed works were not being paid while those for non-existing works were being paid.

The TDP leaders asked how long the government would go on defying the orders of even the High Court. The state was being taken for granted by the ruling party leaders just because the people gave one chance for them very innocently and out of trust in their promises. But, after coming to power, the Chief Minister started committing breach of trust in each and every other promise and programme, they alleged.

We exposed Jagan's all-round betrayals, claims TDP chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday criticised the ruling YSRCP leadership for its 'shameless' counter attacks on the Opposition and all sections of people who questioned its unchecked corruption, failures and total destruction of the state.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here on Friday, Naidu said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy promised much more during electioneering and included totally different ones in his party manifesto which he so greatly described as his Bible like looting sand and causing its shortage which led to the collapse of the construction industry which rendered over 50 lakh workers in

- Comes down heavily on the CM for increasing taxes on municipal water, property, garbage, street-lighting, toilets, drainage, footpath and others
- Alleges that Jagan has lied on payment of crop insurance premium and failed to keep his promise of scrapping CPS within a week of coming to power

the unorganised sector jobless. "Though Jagan Mohan Reddy told voters that he will not impose any new taxes, once he came to power, he started imposing many burdens. Now, the government is trying to increase taxes on municipal water, property, garbage disposal, street-lighting, toilets, drainage, footpath and so on. He might even collect taxes on hair, chappals

and clothing in future. The assigned lands are being snatched away from poorer sections who form 90 per cent of SCs," said the TDP chief.

He said that former Union minister Suresh Prabhu was so concerned that he wrote to the Central government to act before it would be too late to save AP from total collapse.

Naidu said the Chief Minister had told lies about the payment of crop insurance premium. He promised to cancel the contributory pension scheme (CPS) within a week of coming to power but there was no progress, he added. He declared that the TDP would not be afraid of threats and it would fight on behalf of people on the issues of farmers, TIDCO houses, Abdul Salam, taxes, sand, liquor, mining mafia and so on.

ATTACK ON PERNI NANI

Kollu Ravindra gets notice from police

- Machilipatnam DSP visits the house of TDP leader and serves notice asking him to visit his office for questioning about the Nov 30 incident



Kollu Ravindra

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MACHILIPATNAM police on Friday served notice to TDP leader and former minister Kollu Ravindra in connection with the attack by a mason B Nageswara Rao on transport minister Perni Venkatramaiah alias Nani at his residence on November 30. Bandar DSP M Ramesh Reddy visited the residence of Ravindra and served notice under Section 91 of CrPc summoning him to the office of the Bandar DSP. The police earlier registered a case against Nageswara Rao under the Section 307 of the IPC with the crime number 126/20/20. Perni Nani escaped unhurt in the attack.

The mason had attacked him with trowel in the stomach. Some local YSRCP leaders alleged that the TDP leaders were behind the attack on the minister. On the other hand, Ravindra made it clear that he has no connection with the attack on Nani.

Later, the DSP has convinced the former minister to visit the DSP office. Former MP and TDP leader Konakalla Narayana and other leaders expressed solidarity with Kollu Ravindra and visited his residence in Machilipatnam.

599 new cases reported in State

AMARAVATI

THE State reported 599 new Covid-19 cases, 913 recoveries and six deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday.

Consequently, the states Covid-19 chart showed 8,70,675 total positives, 8,57,233 recover-

ies and 7,020 deaths so far. The number of active cases dropped to 6,422, a health department bulletin said.

According to health department, a total of 63,406 tests were conducted, including 15,412 rapid antigen tests, in the state in 24 hours. Only Krishna district

reported 115 new cases while 12 other districts added less than 100 cases each.

Krishna district also saw two fresh Covid-19 fatalities while four other districts, Chittoor, Guntur, Nellore and Kurnool, reported one death each, the bulletin added.

IT'S GREATER HUNG TRS may have tough time to stake Mayor's post

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE BJP's stunning victory in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls has worked well for the saffron party as it has now forced the TRS to have an understanding with the AIMIM to bag the seat of mayor. So far, the TRS did not need an ally to govern the Baldia. The results have shown that even the exit polls could not get the pulse of the people.

TRS, which had won 99 wards in 2016 GHMC polls, could not win more than 55 this time while BJP which had won only in four wards last time went up to 48.

Soon after the results were announced, the BJP justified the celebrations saying that it has finally succeeded in ending the domination of single party rule in GHMC. However, it now remains to be seen who would claim the credit for the success of the saffron party. Union Minister State for Home G Kishan Reddy was the party in charge of GHMC elections while the state president Bandi Sanjay led the high-voltage campaign.

TRS: 55; BJP: 48; MIM 44

This sudden surge of BJP seats in GHMC come close to the victory it has tasted in the Dubbaka bypoll and this has now raised greater interest among voters as they will have to elect two MLC candidates in the Nalgonda and Hyderabad graduate constituencies, Warangal and Khammam municipal corporation elections and the by-election when held for the Nagarjuna Sagar assembly constituency.

In the initial trends, the BJP secured the highest number of postal votes during the counting held on Friday here. The TRS registered upper hand only after the election authorities began counting the votes polled from the ballot boxes. By the afternoon, the TRS was leading in 70 plus wards but towards the end of the day it won in only in 56 wards.

The ruling party retained majority seats in Kukatpally, Qutubullapur, Serlingampally and Sanatnagar assembly constituencies. The BJP has shown good performance in East Hyderabad in Uppal, LB Nagar ,

Malkajgiri and Maheshwaram assembly segments where the saffron party swept majority of the wards.

The MIM secured majority wards (44) in its stronghold of seven assembly segments which includes Charminar, Karwan and Chandrayanagutta among others. The Congress could win only two wards - AS Rao Nagar and Uppal. TPCC working president A Revanth Reddy, who represented the Malkajgiri Lok Sabha Segment failed to show his political dominance in his Parliamentary constituency. TRS won considerable number of wards in the Secunderabad Lok Sabha segment represented by Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy and Hyderabad MP and MIM President Asaduddin Owaisi established his stronghold in his Lok Sabha segment by winning majority number of seats for the third consecutive time after the formation of GHMC. In the 2010 and 2016 elections also, the MIM won more than 40 wards.

Bharat bandh on Dec 8

Continued from P1

The farmers are protesting against the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Vaccine soon

Continued from P1

The group will take decisions collectively as per national and regional requirements. The Prime Minister also cautioned against likely rumours regarding the vaccination campaign and urged all the leaders to make the citizens of the country more aware. The virtual all-party meet witnessed participation from - the Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK, YSR Congress Party, JD(U), BJD, Shiv Sena, TRS, BSP, SP, AIADMK and the BJP. The meeting, second on Covid-19 pandemic so far, was also attended by senior lawmakers and floor leaders of all the key political parties, including Ghulam Nabi Azad and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of Congress, former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda of Janata Dal (Secular) among others.

Oppn wants free Covid vaccine for poor

Continued from P1

Reddy also suggested that the vulnerable section needs to be protected with a free vaccine.

"Will the Central government bear the cost of vaccination programme or will state governments have to share the cost? Are we going to buy vaccine from other countries since we may not have the capacity to meet our large requirements?" Deve Gowda asked the Centre during the all-party meeting according to an official release shared on his Twitter page. Chandrashekhar Sahu of

the Biju Janata Dal also said while Odisha was prepared for the vaccination drive, it would be important for the Central government to do a couple of important surveys to ensure there are no hurdles.

Sudip bandyopadhyay of the Trinamool Congress praised the efforts of the Central government in the fight against Covid-19 but also underlined how his party's leadership headed by Mamata Banerjee walked shoulder to shoulder with the Centre. He asked the Prime Minister to handhold states

hinting at economic support for vaccination.

The PM in his closing comments allayed the concerns of the states saying that whenever a vaccine would come the distribution would be transparent and smooth with proper coordination with the states and the Centre.

On price of Covid-19 vaccine, Modi said the Central government is in talks with the state governments over the price of vaccine and decision regarding it will be taken keeping public health as topmost priority.

BIZ BRIEFS

GoMechanic's new outlet

GoMechanic announced the launch of its authorised distributor store SM Automobiles Pvt. Ltd in Hyderabad. The company will distribute the entire range of multi-brand automobile spares through this distributor outlet. The brands available include GoMechanic Spares, Mobil, Gulf, Monroe, Bosch, Valeo, Purolator, Livguard, Lumax, etc. The brand is aiming at expanding its spare parts business in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as well. Nitin Rana, co-founder, GoMechanic, said, "We were very excited to enter the Hyderabad market and it did not disappoint us. With our first distributor shop in the city, we look forward to a long-lasting relation with Hyderabad's auto market. Our aim is to provide swift and affordable solutions to all our customers."

NSF presents awards

Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation (NSF) has organised the 10th edition of Tobacco Free Grants and Awards – 2020-22, felicitating NGOs and individual leaders from various parts of the country for their pioneering contribution towards tobacco control. The virtual event was attended by Dr Rana J Singh, Deputy Regional Director, South East Asia, International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. The event was also attended by Dr Sadhana Tayde, Director of Health and Family Welfare, Maharashtra, Nandina Ramchandran, CEO, Salaam Mumbai Foundation. Dr Monique Kamat, CEO, Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation, said, "Our focus areas include promoting excellence among individuals, improving the quality of life for socially and economically disadvantaged communities, and promoting and protecting Indian traditions. Recognizing the health hazards of tobacco abuse, the foundation lays equal emphasis on cancer prevention."

Inflation reins in RBI

Reserve Bank keeps key rates unchanged on inflation worries, projects lower GDP contraction of -7.5%

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

REINED in by spiralling inflationary pressures, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday left key interest rates unchanged for the third straight time and said the economy was recuperating fast and would return to positive growth in the current quarter itself.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the benchmark repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — at 4 per cent. Since January, RBI has reduced that rate by 115 basis points before hitting the pause button in August on concerns on inflation.

The reverse repo rate, or the rate at which banks lend to the central bank, was kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

The MPC "decided to continue with the accommodative stance of monetary policy as long as necessary - at least through the current financial year and into the next year," Governor Shaktikanta Das said. The central bank's stance is "to revive growth on a durable basis and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward," he added.

Das said inflation continues to be sticky. Consumer-price growth or the headline CPI inflation, at 7.6 per cent

The MPC decided to continue with the accommodative stance of monetary policy as long as necessary - at least through the current financial year and into the next year

-Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor


STATUS QUO

4%	3.35%	4.25%	4.25%
Repo rate	Reverse repo rate	MSF rate	Bank rate

in October, was well above the upper end of the RBI's 2-6 per cent target band and it expected the outlook for inflation to worsen. RBI sees price gains in the fiscal third quarter at 6.8 per cent and easing a bit to 5.8 per cent in January-March.

Supply-side factors, such as unseasonal rains, labour shortages, higher services prices, higher commodity prices and higher taxes have contributed to a spike in both headline

and core inflation. "Our paramount objective is to support growth while ensuring that financial stability is maintained and preserved at all times," Das said.

The RBI revised its growth outlook, seeing a milder 7.5 per cent contraction in the fiscal year to March 2021 as opposed to its October forecast of a 9.5 per cent shrinkage of the GDP. This after a shallower-than-expected decline in the gross domestic product (GDP) in the July-September quarter.

India entered a technical recession last week - it was the first time in decades that Asia's third-largest economy saw two consecutive quarters of

contraction. A coronavirus lockdown between late-March and May led to a collapse in private consumption and investment demand as well as significant job losses, which further curtailed spending.

The RBI decision was much on the expected lines as it came amid persistently high inflation and after better-than-expected reading on economic growth

Das said high-frequency indicators point to a recovery gaining traction, with double-digit growth in passenger vehicles and motorcycle sales, railway freight traffic, and electricity consumption in October.

The GDP, he said, will grow by 0.1 per cent in the October-December quarter and by 0.7 per cent in the following three months. The economy had contracted by a record 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter and by 7.5 per cent in the following three months. RBI had previously forecast a 5.6 per cent contraction in the quarter through December, followed by a return to growth in the three months to March.

Sensex scales 45k for first time

The possibility for a further rate cut in the near term can be ruled out considering the elevated levels of inflation. However, positively RBI has ensured ample liquidity support on a timely basis in the form of open market operation, TLTRO and reverse repo

POLICY BOOST



MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks rallied to record highs on Friday after the RBI left the policy rates unchanged but maintained its accommodative stance and revised upwards the growth forecast for this fiscal.

Breaching the 45,000-mark for the first time, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 446.90 points or 1 per cent to finish at 45,079.55. Intra-day, it touched a lifetime peak of 45,148.28. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty touched a new high of 13,280.05 during the session, before finishing 124.65 points or 0.95 per cent higher at 13,258.55 - its record closing high. Earlier in the day, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left interest rates unchanged for the third straight time amid persistently high inflation, but said the economy was recuperating fast and would return to positive growth in the current quarter itself. The central bank now expects a milder 7.5 per cent contraction in the fiscal year to March 2021 as opposed to its October forecast of a 9.5 per cent shrinkage of the GDP.

Rate-sensitive banking, financials, realty and auto stocks rallied

after the policy announcement. ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.20 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, HUL, SBI, L&T, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank. On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, HDFC and NTPC closed in the red, slipping up to 0.86 per cent. During the holiday-truncated week, the Sensex rallied 929.83 points or 2.10 per cent, while the Nifty jumped 289.60 points or 2.23 per cent. "RBI's decision to keep policy rates unchanged and maintain an accommodative stance for the current and upcoming year is well taken by the market."

The possibility for a further rate cut in the near term can be ruled out considering the elevated levels of inflation. "However, positively RBI has ensured ample liquidity support on a timely basis in the form of open market operation, TLTRO and reverse repo. Globally, renewed US stimulus negotiation and vaccine roll-out has underpinned optimism, this will help the domestic market to maintain its euphoria," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

'RBI's move will aid GDP recovery'

NEW DELHI

INDIA Inc and experts on Friday said the RBI's decision to hold interest rates will support economic recovery in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and that they expect the central bank to maintain an accommodative stance in the near future.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday left interest rates



unchanged for a third straight meeting as inflation stayed stubbornly high, and said the economy was recuperating fast and would return to positive growth in the

current quarter itself. The benchmark repurchase rate will be maintained at 4 per cent, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) retained its accommodative stance, signalling its intentions to cut interest rates whenever the situation eases. A spike in consumer prices forced RBI to pause after cutting rates by 115 basis points this year. (PTI)

Group of 209 employees to bid for Air India

SANJEEV SHARMA
NEW DELHI

A group of 209 employees of Air India are bidding for the national carrier in partnership with a private financier. As reported first by IANS, Air India employees are preparing to bid for the national carrier in partnership with a private equity fund and each employee will be asked to contribute Rs 1 lakh towards the bid. The bid process is

being led by Meenakshi Mallik, Commercial Director, Air India. "The PIM, thankfully, made it possible for the employees of Air India to take charge and ownership of the airline, and to this end, provides various terms and conditions which need to be fulfilled, and which we intend to collectively achieve and satisfy," said Meenakshi Mallik in a letter to Team Members of Air India. The last date for the bids is December 14.

Uday Shankar to be FICCI President

NEW DELHI

MEDIA executive Uday Shankar has been named as the President-Elect of industry chamber FICCI for the year 2020-21. Shankar will be succeeding Sangita Reddy, President, FICCI, and Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group during FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on December 11, 12 and 14, 2020.

REAL CORNER

'Low interest rate regime will boost realty'

Realtors welcome RBI decision to maintain status quo on policy rates

NEW DELHI

REALTORS on Friday welcomed the RBI's decision to keep policy rates unchanged and its projection of revival in economic growth, saying this will lead to continuation of low interest rate regime on home loans and boost housing demand.

The RBI kept benchmark rate unchanged for third time in a row at 4 per cent. It expects the economy to record positive growth in the second half of 2020-21. The economy contracted by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter and 7.5 per cent in the second quarter due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "Home loans will continue to remain at attractive rates, this should augur well for home buying sentiment," Naredco President Niranjan Hiranandani said. The positive economic growth forecast for the second half of this fiscal would help boost housing demand, he added.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO of CBRE India, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa, said: "The RBI's decision of keeping the repo rate unchanged was on expected lines owing to the rise in inflation in recent months. The strengthening of recovery in rural demand and the momentum gain across urban sector will support the realty sector, he said. "Additionally, policy support being provided by the govern-

The RBI kept benchmark rate unchanged for third time in a row at 4 per cent. It expects the economy to record positive growth in the second half of 2020-21

ment will continue to boost residential uptake and support construction activity in the upcoming months," Magazine said. Kalpataru MD Parag Munot said it is good news for homebuyers as home loan interest rates are expected to remain at current levels in the ongoing fiscal. "Continuation of low rates, along with reduced stamp duty and various developer schemes will keep up the robust momentum. Importantly it will serve as the springboard for real estate growth in the next fiscal, as the economy recovers from pandemic's impact," Munot said.

Gaurs group MD Manoj Gaur said the housing demand has improved of late. "With low home loan interest rates, we see increased sales in the coming quarter." The growth projections of the RBI will instil positive sentiment in the market, which will translate into good numbers for the real estate sector too, said Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder & Chairman - Signature Global.



Housing brokerage firm Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said an unchanged repo rate will ensure that home loan interest rates will not harden anytime soon.

Dhruv Agarwala, group CEO, Housing.com, Makaan.com and Proptiger, said the RBI move to maintain status quo on policy rates was expected in the face of persistently high retail inflation. "Interest rates on home loans are already at sub-7 per cent level, with banks offering further sweeteners such as processing fee waivers among many others. We hope banks will continue to lend

vigorously to the real estate sector," he said.

JLL India CEO and Country Head Ramesh Nair said the RBI's decision to hold the rate will help homebuyers to avail the benefit of the prevailing lowest mortgage rates. "Green shoots of recovery armed with other incentives such as stamp duty reduction in some states and the flexibility of developers in offering best prices/payment schemes will help in further improving home sales," he added. Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Baijal said the low home loan interest rates have played a key role

in rekindling the latent demand in housing market by nudging home buyers to make purchase decisions even during the pandemic. "RBI's decision to keep the rates unchanged will keep the momentum of demand intact to provide the much needed stability, as even while there is recovery in the economy, it is still fragile and highly volatile," he said.

Kaushal Agarwal - Chairman, The Guardians Real Estate Advisory, said: "With commercial banks being asked to consolidate profits and not distribute dividends, it's time the banks further

sweeten the lending rates." Mumbai-based S Raheja Realty Director Ram Raheja said the real estate sector was expecting a rate cut which would have given further impetus to demand and induce liquidity in the market. Achal Raina, COO, Raheja Developers, said there are positives to be taken from the RBI's MPC announcement, which includes a positive outlook towards economic growth.

Amit Modi, Director ABA CORP, said the move was on expected lines and hope banks would continue to fund aggressively to homebuyers and developers. Yash Migalini, MD, Migsun Group, said low interest rate in home loan helped in increasing demand during festive season and hoped sales would continue to improve in coming months. The industry and the government should strive to revive homebuyer's sentiments, said Ankush kaul, President (Sales & Marketing), Ambience Group. Manju Yagnik, Vice Chairperson of Nahar Group, said the government's ongoing policy support on rates and taxes for the housing sector indicates that the worst is behind us. "We feel that a rate cut now would have given some respite to the real estate sector which has been facing headwinds due to the pandemic," said Lincoln Bennet Rodrigues, founder and Chairman, Bennet & Bernard Group.

Office market likely to remain resilient in 2021



INDIA'S office market will remain resilient in 2021, property consultancy Knight Frank said. In its latest report on 'Asia-Pacific Real Estate Outlook 2021: Navigating the Post-Pandemic Recovery', the consultancy said that Bengaluru market is expected to experience a rise in rental values in the next year while Mumbai and NCR are expected to remain stable in rental values.

"These trends indicate that despite a bleak period between April and June 2020, the overall demand for office space could remain strong in the new year. For the main office markets of India, the positive trends are a draw out of the encouragement received in the subsequent part of 2020 (July-Sept) which saw office space demand making a comeback, albeit still short of pre-Covid periods," the report said. In particular, it pointed out that Bengaluru has the benefit of existing low vacancies that will enable absorption of much of the upcoming supply.

"The city also has the advantage of relatively lower rentals compared to global markets and large talent pool that should help in quicker revival of this market as global economies move towards normalcy," it said.



MLC K Raghotham Reddy handing over membership registration papers to teachers in Veenavanka on Friday

Teachers' promotions in January, says MLC K Raghotham Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

MLC Koorla Raghotham Reddy said the Telangana government is ready to give the long-awaited promotions to teachers by next January. He participated in the membership campaign held under the joint auspices of PRTU (TS) Karimnagar district and Veenavanka mandal units on Friday and addressed teachers at several schools in Veenavanka mandal.

The MLC said that he explained the problems of the teachers with IT Minister KT

Rama Rao and appealed him to solve them.

'Responding positively, KTR had directed the Education Ministry officials to take steps to solve all issues in a manner that would not be financially burdensome, to give promotions and inter-district transfers of teachers during Sankranti holidays.'

He called for unity among the teachers and various unions in fighting for their problems and assured to strive to resolve the problems of teachers on the council as an agenda.

MLC Raghotham Reddy con-

gratulated PRTU (TS) district representatives for maintaining record-level of membership registration.

PRTU (TS) Karimnagar district branch president Polampally Adarshan Reddy, State vice-president Boddireddy Dayakar Reddy, secretary E Prasad, Veenavanka mandal president and secretaries Thukaram and Karunakar Reddy, district representatives Sunita, Thalla Thirupathi, Dingari Madhu and G Umareddy, headmasters of respective schools participated in the programme.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

DISTRICT Collector C Narayana Reddy said that slots should be booked online for Sadaram camps set up to confirm and verify the disability percentage of the disabled and only those, who have booked slots, will be allowed to enter the camps.

He held a conference with the authorities concerned on the steps to be taken for the management of Sadaram camps in the district and necessary arrangements here on Friday.

The Collector informed that these camps would be conducted in three divisional centres in the district. Sadaram camp will be conducted in government hospital on December 7 in Nizamabad revenue division; on December 9 in Bodhan; and on December 16 in Armoor. The camp will be conducted for three weeks in each division - one day per week - and conduct examinations for 30 persons per week and issue certificates on the disability.

Collector Narayana Reddy advised the authorities to extend the camp further depending on



District Collector C Narayana Reddy explaining driving precautions to a disabled woman after giving her tricycle moped in Nizamabad on Friday

the demand. Documents should be issued to those who have already undergone examinations and are not certified, he stated and specifically directed the DRDA and medical department officials to make necessary

arrangements for the issuance of disability certificates on the day of the examinations to be conducted on any given day.

The Collector directed the administrators to ensure that all necessary regulations are fol-

lowed in view of the coronavirus. He suggested the hearing impaired should go to the camps organised by Koti Hospital in Hyderabad as there are no facilities in the district to test the hearing impaired.



SBI Ladies' Club lends helping hand orphans

HYDERABAD

SBI Ladies Club, Amaravati Circle, donated groceries to Shradha Orphanage run by Sujatha Burla on Friday. This orphanage was started by her mother in 2008 in their own home. Earlier they housed 35 girls, but due to changing norms, now they are providing shelter and education to 25 boys. Sujatha Burla, the Managing Trustee of "Shrad-

dha-Life Beyond Imagination" has been confined to a wheelchair due to a spinal injury. The accident took place 19 years ago but that has not stopped her from living her life meaningfully.

Vandana Sahay, President, SBI Ladies Club, Amaravati Circle, Hyderabad Sujatha Burla, Managing Trustee of Shradha Orphanage and members of SBI Ladies Club were also present.

PADDY THEFT AT PACS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHBUBNAGAR

FARMERS were enraged at the negligence of the PACS authorities after their weighed paddy bags at Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS) procurement centre were robbed and put fire to their paddy bags at Nasrullabad village of Jadcherla mandal in the district on Friday.

The paddy farmers said that they were told that paddy procurement centre was set up at Badepally market yard to purchase produce from the farmers of Nasrullabad village. On the first day, the PACS authorities procured the paddy from the farmers at minimum support price of Rs 1,868 and kept the weighed bags in the open without giving the final receipt of procurement to the farmers. When the farmers approached the PACS authorities to get their



Farmers burning paddy bags at a PACS centre in Nasrullabad village on Friday

receipts for their weighed paddy bags, the authorities informed that a few bags were missing from the earlier count and they gave receipts for the bags present on the spot only. With this, the paddy farmers became angry and put fire to a few bags.

The PACS authorities and agriculture officials have intervened and pacified the farmers

and brought the issue under control.

The farmers complained that each farmer lost at least four bags, which is a big loss to them.

It is because of the PACS authorities we lost our paddy bags, they criticized and demanded the higher ups to take stern action against those responsible.

Development possible only with TRS: MLA Veditela

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

HUSNABAD MLA Veditela Satish Kumar hailed the victory of the TRS in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Elections. Speaking to reporters here on Friday, Satish Kumar, in-charge of Malkajgiri constituency, congratulated TRS candidate Mekala Sunita Yadav, who won from 141st division of Gautam Nagar in Malkajgiri.

Terming the TRS victory in the Greater elections as the victory of the people, the MLA said the TRS had once again shown its strength and the people trusted their party. He reaffirmed that the development of Hyderabad, the wel-

fare of the people and the security of peace are possible only with Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. He said that the people of the State favoured TRS and the same had been proved in the

previous Assembly, mandal, Zilla Parishat and gram panchayat elections. Stating that the TRS only can develop the State, Satish Kumar said TRS would pave way for the future of the State under the leadership of KCR, who had won the State for the people of Telangana.

MLA Satish Kumar congratulated Municipal Minister KT Rama Rao, who worked tirelessly for the victory of the TRS.



SI among two in ACB trap

HANS NEWS SERVICE
YADADRI-BHONGIR/NALGONDA

THE Anti-Corruption Bureau sleuths trapped two officials for taking a bribe to settle the works in erstwhile Nalgonda district on Friday.

According to officials, Rajiv Vidya Mission site engineer Swamy Naik in Miryalaguda of Nalgonda district was trapped by the ACB when he was accepting a bribe of Rs 80,000 from a contractor to get the bills cleared.

Similarly, sub-inspector

of Gundala police station of Yadadri-Bhongir district Chandar was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a PDS rice illegal trader. According to reports, the SI arrested Qasim, involved in smuggling of PDS rice and registered a case last month. The SI demanded a bribe of Rs 40,000 every month from Qasim after the latter was released on bail. Against this backdrop, Qasim approached the ACB officials, who in turn nabbed the SI while accepting the bribe amount.

2L tonnes coal production per day from Dec: SCCL CMD

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

SINGARENI Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director N Sridhar instructed all the GMs to increase its coal production to 2 lakh tonnes per day and dispatch 1.85 lakh tonnes. They were also instructed that transport of 35 rakes (rail wagons) has to be done from December against 29 rakes in November.

He held a video conference with all the General Managers of the company on Friday and reviewed November month pro-



SCCL CMD N Sridhar conducting a video conference with all the GMs from Hyderabad on Friday

duction. Later, he gave instructions on the targets for December. Sridhar clarified about the

number of rakes to be transported in every area and instructed since the targets of coal

production from open cast mines are to be met, new open cast mines at RKP open cast, Srirampur Open cast, KTK Open cast and RG-3 mines overburden removal contract awards have to be finalised immediately.

He suggested that the new contract of 38 lakh cubic meters and new contract of JVR open cast (Sathupalli) has to be done immediately and the water collected due to the recent heavy rains in Kothagudem Gautam mine has to be removed and production targets have to be achieved as usual.

The CMD instructed to start

coal production from a new panel at Adria Long wall and production from GDK-11 mine should start again with continuous miners. He appreciated for achieving production targets as expected in November from Kothagudem, Manuguru, Ramagundam-3 and Ramagundam-2 areas and suggested to move forward with the same enthusiasm.

ED Coal Movement J Allwyn; Advisor (Mining) DN Prasad; Advisor (Forestry) K Surendra Pandey; and GM (CDN) K Ravishankar participated in the video conference along with the CMD.

Cong to protest against LRS on Dec 9

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

BHONGIR MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy criticised that both the TRS and the BJP were trying to get political benefit through misutilising the power and by dividing the people on caste and religious lines.

Speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Friday, he expressed solidarity to the farmers' agitation and demanded the Central government to fulfil farmers' demands unconditionally in the interest of the nation. He called upon the farmers of the State to launch agitation on the lines of Delhi agitation. He expressed concern over non-procurement of sanna variety of paddy, which was cultivated by the farmers as per the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Venkat Reddy announced that he will launch an agitation demanding completion of SLBC tunnel and Udaya Samudram Lift Irrigation Scheme (Brahmana Vellemla project in Nalgonda district).



Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy addressing the media in Nalgonda on Friday

Criticising that the TRS did nothing to the people of the State for the past seven years, he questioned CM KCR for his pending promises like financial aid to unemployed youth etc. Both KCR and his son and Minister KT Rama Rao were robbing the State in the name of projects and pharma city, he added. He announced that his party will conduct protest demonstration

against LRS on December 9.

The MP stated that the results of Dubbaka by-poll and GHMC does not have any impact on the prospects of Congress' winning chances in the next Assembly elections in the State. And he appealed to the party leaders and activists not to lose heart with GHMC results. He added that party high command will look after into the

matter of changing TPCC president. Stating that he always has indebted to the people of Nalgonda district, who made him a noted leader, he described Nalgonda as the mother's lap.

DCC president Shankar Naik, party leaders Dubbaka Narasimha Reddy, Burri Srinivas Reddy and others were present at the press meet.

Puvvada failed to pick up BJP's gauntlet: Galla

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

BJP district president Galla Satyanarayana alleged that Transport Minister P Ajay Kumar has failed to respond to the challenge he (Galla) threw at the Minister.

It should be recalled here that the BJP leader on Thursday challenged Minister Ajay to take oath at Narasimha Swamy temple in Khammam on Friday and come clear on his (Minister Ajay) recent statement that BJP activists were trying to kill him.

Satyanarayana along with party leaders took out a rally from the party district office to the temple as per the challenge at 10 am and offered prayers at the temple. He waited for the Minister to come. Speaking to the media, the BJP leader claimed that Ajay Kumar's failure to turn up at the temple



District BJP chief Galla Satyanarayana along with party activists offering prayers at Narasimha Swamy temple in Khammam on Friday

shows that he accepted that his allegations against the BJP activists were false.

BJP town president Rudra Pradeep, V Sudhakar, N Ravi Kumar, Ch Kiran, K Srinivas,

Bhadram, D Aruna, B Shyam Sundar, Venkat Narayana, A Upender Goud, B Chandrashekar, Veeru Goud, Yella Rao Goud, P Linga Raju and Shyam were present.

Skipper Finch soft pedal on concussion sub row

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA captain Aaron Finch played down the matter of India bringing in leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal as concussion substitute for Ravindra Jadeja in the first T20I after the decision appeared to have irked Australia head coach Justin Langer who was seen discussing the issue with match referee David Boon at the Manuka Oval on Friday. Chahal took three for 25 to become the first concussion

substitute to win man of the match award. "Their doctor had ruled Jadeja out due to concussion. You can't be challenging a medical expert's opinion," said Finch putting to rest the controversy. India skipper Virat Kohli said, "There were no plans of having Yuzi (Yuzvendra Chahal) in the game. Concussion replacements are a strange thing. Today, it worked for us.

Yuzvendra Chahal

Concussion sub Chahal's three-wicket haul helps India win first

India's Hardik Pandya dives to make a catch to dismiss Australia's Aaron Finch during their T20 international cricket match at Manuka Oval, in Canberra, Australia on Friday

CANBERRA

INDIA'S concussion substitute Yuzvendra Chahal, who came in for Ravindra Jadeja during Australia's innings, picked three for 25 in his first four overs to help India beat Australia by 11 runs in the first T20 International at the Manuka Oval on Friday.

This was India's sixth win over Australia in 10 T20Is on Australian soil. The win helped India take 1-0 lead in the three-match T20I series. India had earlier lost the ODI series 1-2. Chahal (3/25), who took the field as Jadeja could not play as a bowler in Australia's innings after taking a hit on his head off Mitchell Starc's short ball during his unbeaten knock of 23-ball 44, took the important wickets of skipper Aaron Finch, Steve Smith and Matthew Wade to dent the Aussie chase of 162.

The Australians had got off to a good start but Chahal removed Finch and Smith in his first two overs. He came back to get rid of Wade as the Aussie middle-order batsman looked for a big hit in the face of a rising required run rate. T Natarajan (3/30) was the other successful bowler as he picked the wickets of Glenn Maxwell, D'Arcy Short and Mitchell Starc.

The decision to bring in Chahal for Jadeja, who just before getting hit on his head was already limping did not please Australia coach Justin Langer who was seen discussing the issue with match referee David Boon.

Earlier, a well compiled half century from KL Rahul and the late onslaught from Jadeja helped India post 161.

Put into bat, India didn't have a great start as they lost a wicket early in the innings. Shikhar Dhawan was undone by an out-swing in the third over bowled by Mitchell Starc and went back to the pavilion after scoring just one.

Skipper Virat Kohli, who came into bat next, then stitched a little partnership with Rahul and took the Indian score to 48. Just when the scoring rate seemed to be going up, Mitchell Swepson got the prized scalp of Kohli who was caught & bowled by the leg-spinner at his individual score of 9.

However, Rahul continued his good run and kept scoring boundaries whenever the Australian bowlers erred and along with Sanju Samson, took the Indian innings forward. Samson, during his stay at the wicket, played beautiful shots and made 23 off 15 before he was caught at covers while trying to hit a boundary against Moises Henriques.

Next batsman Manish Pandey (2 off 8) didn't stay long at the crease and was sent back to the dressing room by Adam Zampa. Rahul, who was till then holding one end up, soon became the second scalp of Henriques who had the India wicketkeeper-batsman caught in the deep by Sean Abbott. Rahul smashed five fours and a six during his 40-ball innings.

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya scored 16 off 15 before getting caught at long-off by Steve Smith while trying to go for a maximum against Henriques.

However, Jadeja who has been among the runs in recent

times, provided India the much-needed impetus and scored 44 off just 23 balls, with the help of five fours and a six to help the team end their innings at 161/7.

Henriques was the pick of the Australian bowlers as he returned with figures of 3/22. Starc took two wickets while Zampa and Swepson picked one wicket apiece. (ANS)

SCOREBOARD

India

KL Rahul c Abbott b Henriques -----51
Shikhar Dhawan b Starc -----1
Virat Kohli c and b Swepson -----9
Sanju Samson c Swepson b Henriques ----23
Manish Pandey c Hazlewood b Zampa -----2
Hardik Pandya c Steven Smith b Henriques16
Ravindra Jadeja not out -----44
Washington Sundar c Abbott b Starc -----7
Deepak Chahar not out -----0
Extras: (LB-2, W-5, NB-1) -----8
Total: (for seven wickets in 20 Overs) -----161
Fall of Wkts: 1-11, 2-48, 3-86, 4-90, 5-92, 6-114, 7-152.
Bowling: Mitchell Starc 4-0-34-2, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-39-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-20-1, Sean Abbott 2-0-23-0, Mitchell Swepson 2-0-21-1, Moises Henriques 4-0-22-3.

Australia

D Arcy Short c Hardik Pandya b T Natarajan34
Aaron Finch c Hardik Pandya b Chahal ----35
Steven Smith c Samson b Chahal -----12
Glenn Maxwell lbw b T Natarajan -----2
Moises Henriques lbw b D Chahal -----30
Matthew Wade c Kohli b Chahal -----7
Sean Abbott not out -----12
Mitchell Starc b T Natarajan -----1
Mitchell Swepson not out -----12
Extras: (LB-4, W-1) -----5
Total: (seven wickets in 20 Overs) -----150
Fall of Wickets: 1-56, 2-72, 3-75, 4-113, 5-122, 6-126, 7-127.
Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-29-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-16-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-46-0, T Natarajan 4-0-30-3, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-25-3.

1st Test: Williamson's 251 puts NZ on top against Windies

HAMILTON

SKIPPER Kane Williamson scored a brilliant double hundred as New Zealand dominated the proceedings on Day Two of the ongoing first Test against West Indies at the Seddon Park.

On Friday, Williamson made his highest Test score of 251, surpassing his previous best of an unbeaten 242 against Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in January 2015. Starting the day at 243/2, the hosts lost Ross Taylor early as he went back to the pavilion after adding seven runs to his overnight score of 31. However, the dismissal didn't have any impact on Williamson who went on to score his 22nd Test hundred.

The NZ skipper bat-

ted with all the composure and elegance, occupying the crease for more than a day's play, facing 412 balls and hitting 34 fours and two sixes before his innings came to an end in the final session of the day, soon after which the host declared their innings at 519/7.

Apart from Williamson, Tom Latham and Kyle Jamieson made notable contributions of 86 and 51* respectively. For the visitors, Kemar Roach and Shannon Gabriel took three wickets each while Alzarri Joseph picked the remaining seventh wicket.

At stumps, West Indies were 49/0 as openers Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell remained unbeaten at the crease on 20 and 22 respectively and the visitors still trail by 470 runs. (ANS)

Brief scores: New Zealand 1st innings 519/7 declared (Kane Williamson 251, Tom Latham 86; Shannon Gabriel 3/89) West Indies 1st innings: 49/0 (Kraigg Brathwaite 20*, John Campbell 22*).

First ODI postponed after SA player tests +ve for Covid-19

CAPE TOWN

THE first One-day International between South Africa and England has been postponed to Sunday (December 6) after a player from the Proteas team testing positive for COVID-19 after the teams last round of scheduled testing performed on Thursday ahead of the ODIs.

The decision was taken by both the England Cricket Board as well as the home board, Cricket South Africa. "Cricket South Africa (CSA) and the England Cricket Board (ECB) would like to announce the postponement of the first Betway One-Day International (ODI) of the three-match series to Sunday, 06 December 2020," said a statement from the Cricket South Africa.

"This decision results from a player from the Proteas team testing positive for COVID-19 after the teams' last round of scheduled testing performed on Thursday ahead of the ODIs. In the interests of the safety and well-being of both teams, match officials and all involved in the match, the Acting CEO of CSA, Kugandrie Govender as well as the CEO of the ECB, Tom Harrison, have agreed to postpone the first fixture to Sunday," the statement added.

The amended tour dates are as follows: Sunday (Dec. 6) - 1st ODI, Paarl (day match) Monday (Dec. 7) - 2nd ODI, Cape Town (day-night match) Wednesday (Dec. 9) - 3rd ODI, Cape Town (day-night match)

Fowler plots East Bengal revival against NorthEast

VASCO

SC East Bengal will look to register their first win of the season when they take on North-East United FC in the Indian Super League here on Saturday.

Coach Robbie Fowler's side is yet to score in the league and has conceded five goals in its opening two fixtures. The team lost to ATK Mohun Bagan and Mumbai City FC and is languishing at the bottom of the points table. The former Liverpool striker believes that it was individual errors that cost his side the points.

"In all honesty, I will love to have them (more reinforcement) in all areas of the park. But I can't complain because we have what we have. Individual errors have cost us," Fowler said on the eve of the match against NorthEast United.

Meanwhile, NorthEast will aim to carry on with their positive start to the season. Gerard Nus' side won its opening match before being held to back-to-back draws. They have five points from three games and occupy the third spot. "We want to compete. We are going

in a good direction. We have to improve a lot. The goal for this season is to be competitive. We have to take one game at a time. We will do everything we can to win," said Nus.

One area of concern for NorthEast United is scoring from open play. Three of the four goals that Highlanders have scored are from set-pieces. "We are working to create chances from open play and set-pieces," said Nus.

Nus believes it will be a challenging task grabbing all three points against the Kolkata giants. "We will not have only one plan. We are focussing on ourselves. We watched them play and they did not have the results they wanted. But they are going to be difficult and a threat to us. It will be a tough game," added Nus.

With both sides letting their opponents have most of the ball in their previous matches and preferring to attack on the counter, Saturday's clash will make for interesting viewing. (PTI)

Match Result

Bengaluru FC beat Chennaiyin FC
1-0

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సరైన సమయంలో చక్కని నిర్ణయం మంచి ఫలితాలను అందించింది

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