



THE HANS INDIA

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India past Covid peak

Can control pandemic by Feb: Expert panel

New Delhi: A government-appointed scientific committee has said the Covid-19 pandemic seems to have peaked and is now on the decline and is likely to run its course by February next year.

The committee, headed by Professor M Vidyasagar of IIT Hyderabad, has used computer models to map the trajectory of the pandemic in the country. Its key finding has been that the disease is likely to have peaked in the middle of September and the total number of infections in India is unlikely to exceed 106 lakhs. So far, 75 lakh people in India have been infected, of which nearly 66 lakhs have recovered.

The committee claimed that the lockdown imposed in March has had a powerful impact on slowing down the



LANDMARK FINDINGS

- Covid can be controlled by early next year with minimal active symptomatic infections by February-end
- Upcoming festival and winter season may increase the susceptibility to infection
- Relaxation in protective measures can lead to a significant rise, up to 26 lakh infections within a month
- 30% population are projected to have antibodies at present
- Cumulative mortality projected to be less than 0.04% of total infected

spread of the disease in the country. In the absence of the lockdown, the death

count would have gone up to 25 lakhs, it said.

Continued on Page 5

2nd wave of Covid can't be ruled out in winter

New Delhi: The number of new coronavirus cases and deaths have declined in the last three weeks as the spread of the pandemic has stabilised in most of the states, Niti Aayog Member VK Paul said on Sunday, but he added that the possibility of a second wave of infections in the winter season.

Paul, who is also the chief of an expert panel co-ordinating efforts to tackle the pandemic in the country, in an interview said that once the Covid-19 vaccine is available, there will be enough resources to deliver as well as make it accessible to the citizens.

Continued on Page 5

NMC DOCTORS ON STRIKE FROM TODAY

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Apart from all the six major hospitals under the Northern Municipal Corporation, doctors and health workers of polyclinics and dispensaries attached to them will be on strike from Monday. On the other hand, the doctors and health workers of Hindurao and Kasturba hospitals continued their strike for the seventh consecutive day on Saturday. Because of this, medical services in the hospital came to a standstill. However, emergency services are running smoothly.

Dr Maruti Sinha, general secretary of the Northern Municipal Physicians Association, said that dispensaries and polyclinics were attached to all six hospitals, and were protesting against non-payment of salaries. Health workers will be on strike from Monday.

Continued on Page 5



BrahMos test fired from navy ship successfully

New Delhi: India successfully test fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from Indian Navy's stealth destroyer on Sunday.

"BrahMos, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired on Sunday from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea," the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said in a statement.

The missile hit the target successfully with pin-point accuracy after performing

high-level and extremely complex manoeuvres.

BrahMos as 'prime strike weapon' will ensure the warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus making the destroyer another lethal platform of Indian Navy.

The highly versatile BrahMos has been jointly designed, developed and produced by India and Russia.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, BrahMos and Indian Navy for the successful launch.

FIRECRACKERS GODOWN BLAST KILLS 3 IN AGRA

Agra: A huge blast in a godown full of stockpiles of firecrackers killed three unidentified persons and injured half a dozen people in Agra.

The number of casualties could go up after the debris is cleared, police said. The whole area was enveloped in a cloud of smoke and stink. The explosion was heard even two kilometres away.

All three succumbed to injuries while being shifted to hospital.

Shah Ganj police station officials said the blast took place in New Azam Pada godown, near Sunflower School, close to the Prithvi Nath police chowki.

Locals said illegal stocking of firecrackers was going on in the godown for the past several days. Anticipating Diwali sales several godowns in the city have begun stocking a wide range of crackers.

The godown allegedly belongs to a local businessman Chaman Mansuri, people living nearby told the police.

Senior police officials had reached the site of the blast along with fire brigade personnel to douse the fire.



New US Congress may see more Indian-Americans

Washington: The upcoming US elections on November 3 could very well see the expansion of the so called 'Samosa Caucus', a term coined by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi for informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers, according to the latest Congressional polls coming from states. The 'Samosa Caucus' comprises five In-

dian-American lawmakers, including four members of the House of Representatives and Senator and Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris. In the House of Representatives, senior most Dr Ami Bera, Congressmen Ro Khanna and Krishnamoorthi along with Pramila Jayapal, who is the first and the only Indian American



woman in the House, are projected to be re-elected on November 3. Pramila Jayapal, 55, in the new Congress next year, is likely to have company from Dr Hiral Tipirneni. Hiral Tipirneni, emergency room physician, is leading, though by a narrow margin, against Republican incumbent David Schweikert in the sixth Congressional District of Ari-

zona. He has been endorsed by top leaders of the Democratic party, including former vice president Joe Biden, the presidential candidate. Former State Department Diplomat Sri Preston Kulkarni is leading by five percent against his Republican rival Troy Nehls in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas, which is an open seat this time. **Cont'd on P5**



Congratulations

Dr K. Laxman Ji

On Swearing - As

National President,

BJP, OBC Morcha

Date - 19th October 2020,

Timing - 10:00 AM

Venue - BJP National Office



KOTHA ASHOK GOUD

BJP State Executive Member, Telangana
Assembly Incharge, Ibrahimpatnam, T.S














Womenia

A role, every actor would want to do

RADHIKA RAJAMANI

Rupali Ganguly has done a wide range of roles in her acting career so far on television. In serials like Sanjivani, "Sukanya", "Bhabhi", "Kahani ghar ghar kii", "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai" and more. She took a break and is now back on the small screen with "Anupamaa" being telecast on Star Plus. This serial is quite popular on television.

Rupali believes that no other role would be better than that of Anupamaa to come back with.

She shares, "Anupamaa is a role that any actor would want to do. Why wouldn't I choose Anupamaa? Any actor would definitely jump at a role and an opportunity like this where at. I get to do emotions, I get to do fun moments, I get to do family drama, I get to dance. I get to do just about everything, romance. Everything and the emotions are written so well and woven into the basic story of Anupamaa. At one point of time I was doing about four shows. I was the lead in all of them. I was going from one set to another. I would come home, have a bath and run again to the shoot. Not that I regret anything. You do miss out on such things in life when you are pursuing something."

She missed out on spending time with her father though he was hospitalised most of the time and spent time with him there.

"I didn't want that to happen when my child was born. There is no point in having a child if you want the help to look after it - at least in the initial years where the child realises the importance of parents specially the mother to be there. I always had my mother around as she was a housewife. So, that was the basic condition.



Rupali Ganguly with Sudhanshu Pandey in 'Anupamaa'

I really loved to spend time with my son. It didn't mean I kept away from acting. I did two plays to satisfy the acting bug. But I made sure I was home for my son no matter where my shows were. I wasn't prepared to take up something like "Anupamaa" which re-

quires complete dedication and a lot of time. My husband said you have to see yourself as an actor too," adds Rupali.

"Anupamaa" is completely modern but quintessentially a very traditional woman with integrity and self respect. She has tremen-

Rupali Ganguly finally gives a comeback on the small screen with the character of 'Anupamaa' who at 40 plus years of age gets to do everything a heroine does

dous love for the family. She has her integrity, honesty and child-likeness. There are so many layers to her character. It's all done by the writers and the creator of the show Rajan Shahi. All that Rupali has to do is go to the set, put on make-up and go there and act.

Share about her getting the role, she says, "I just walked into it. I was attending a wedding in Goa on February 24 and on 25 I came to the shoot. There was not much time to think. There are certain characters that you are destined to do and I was probably destined to do Anupamaa. I enjoy this character. The best part is all the actors are like a gang. After Sarabhai this is the set I find the comfort zone. It is so reassuring to go back on the set and find people who believe in having fun. If the emotions are coming out well, it is also because of the fine bonding between us."

For Rupali, Anupamaa is a dream role that she portrayed.

"I am overwhelmed with the kind of messages that I get, the response that I get. When people call me Anupamaa I am shocked. Recently I went to Lokhandwala market wearing a mask and with no make-up. Suddenly I heard someone call me Anupamaa! How did you know? The person said I saw you get down from the car," ends Rupali.



Shantanu and Nikhil showcased their collection 'The Declaration 2034'

Veteran designers Shantanu and Nikhil and Tarun Tahiliani launched their collections virtually at the ongoing digital edition of Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week, Spring/Summer 2021

Shantanu and Nikhil, Tarun Tahiliani play with silhouettes

PUJA GUPTA

Veteran designers Shantanu and Nikhil and Tarun Tahiliani launched their collections virtually at the ongoing digital edition of Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week, Spring/Summer 2021.

Under their new label S&N, Shantanu and Nikhil showcased their collection 'The Declaration 2034'.

The line-up saw ensembles with military influences, pleating and layering over 'authoritarian' silhouettes of blazers, coats and kurtas with asymmetrical hemlines.

The colour palette was between navy's, off whites, olives and blacks.

"The collection transports you to an almost utopian world where gender fluidity, equality, right to privacy and evolved consciousness become the basic fundamental rights. In a harmonious narrative of science and conscience, the collection is a futuristic spin on the new scaffolds of society and the referendum of neo-governance," said the designers.

Through this collection 'The Age Of Innocence', Tahiliani has tried to portray 'modern Indian bride'. The collection finds inspiration from minakari work one normally sees in Indian jewellery and has recreated its earlier renditions of the Jaamevaar.

The colours are inspired by minakari- aquas, shell pinks, pale jades and tea roses. There are pieces are hand painted and then heavily hand-embroidered in brocade. Modern fits and silhouettes, light-weight lehengas with pockets form most of the collection.



Geisha Design's collection

QUICK TIP

The next level highlight

Low beyond with this powerful finishing touch of sheen. Sweep onto areas that reflect the most light, such as cheekbones, brow bones, and down the bridge of the nose. This highlighter powder drenches skin in a melted metallic finish for a brilliant, next-level glow.



Inclusive, self loving: Future of fashion

PUJA GUPTA

Ashish N Soni's latest collection signifies African heritage and vouches for diversity and inclusion. The line is inspired by cultural influences of the African community.

To create an impact and send his message out loud and clear, the designer cast black models to showcase his creations based on a 'Less is More' philosophy.

Soni showcased the collection virtually at the ongoing digital Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week, Spring/Summer 2021 through a fashion film streamed on the social media handles of Fashion Design Council of India.

Tailored fit suits, blazers, jackets, sweatshirts and hood-

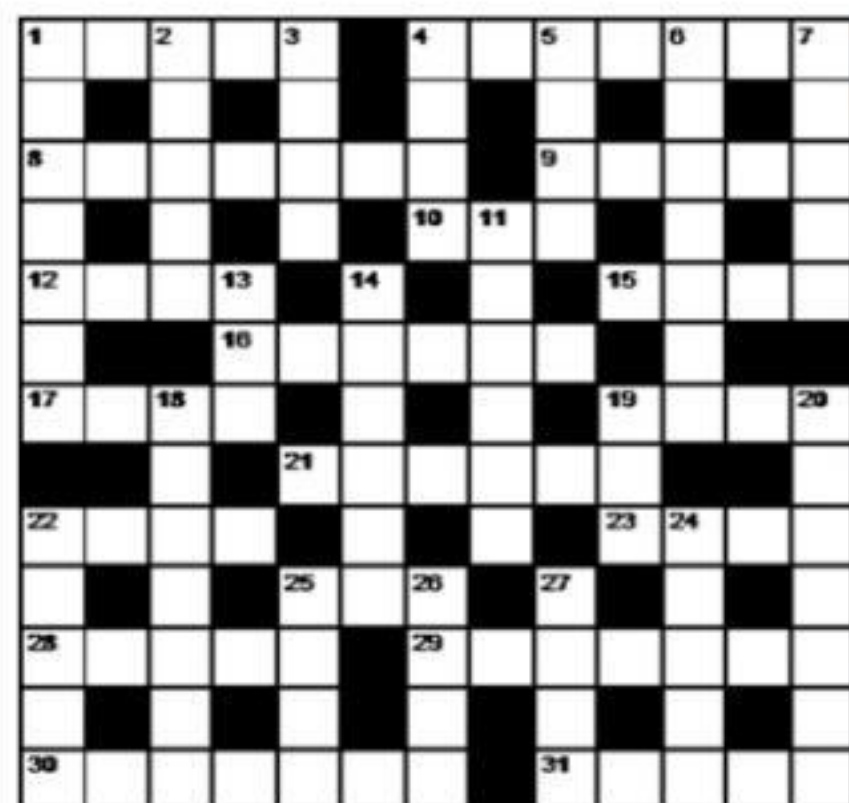
Ashish N Soni showcase its collection inspired by the African culture, whereas Geisha Design's collection is all about self love

Ashish N Soni showcase its collection inspired by the African culture, whereas Geisha Design's collection is all about self love

ies with surface texturing featured in the collection which saw most garments mostly in monsoon and shades of black and white.

Designer duo Paras and Shalini's offering 'Bloom in Love' is all about 'self-love'. Under their label Geisha

Designs, the designers showcased easy-breezy, flowing silhouettes with floral prints and motifs. Dresses, skirts, sarees, lehengas and ankalis made in light weight fabrics like chiffon and satin are perfect for spring next season.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 17

CROSSWORD

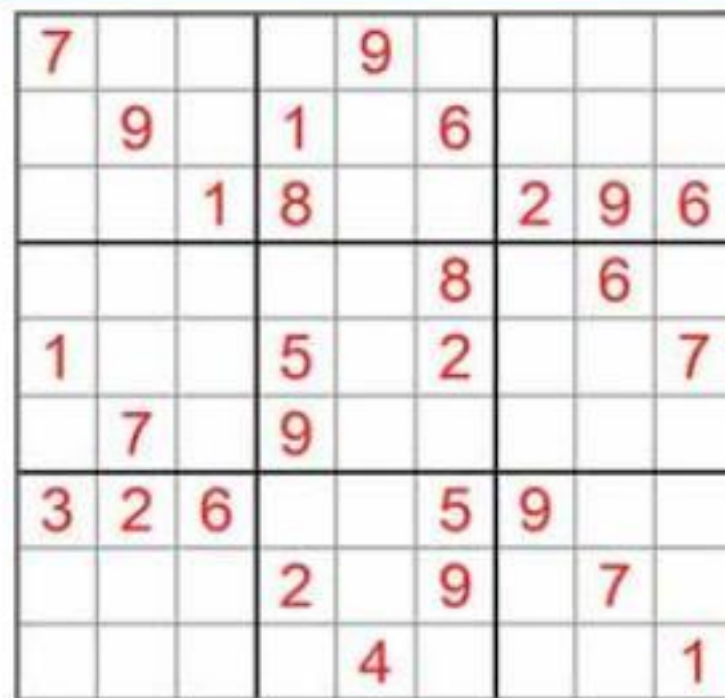
Across

- 1 Postpone (5)
- 4 Relate (7)
- 8 Liberty (7)
- 9 State of confusion (3-2)
- 10 Unit of current (3)
- 12 Applaud (4)
- 15 Contradict (4)
- 16 Attack as false (6)
- 17 Double (4)
- 19 Musical instrument (4)
- 21 Set alight (6)
- 22 Deities (4)
- 23 Garden denizen (4)
- 25 Last in a long line (3)
- 28 Nook or recess (5)
- 29 Clothing (7)
- 30 Munitions store (7)
- 31 Averages (5)

Down

- 1 Shortfall (7)
- 2 Norse goddess of love (5)
- 3 Communists (4)
- 4 Cougar (4)
- 5 Incline (4)
- 6 Fear or mental anguish (7)
- 7 Diaper (5)
- 11 A thieving bird (6)
- 13 ATM code (3)
- 14 Faucet (6)
- 18 Accuses by legal process (7)
- 19 Limb (3)
- 20 Blood clot (7)
- 22 Marijuana (5)
- 24 Less common (5)
- 25 Noble gas (4)
- 26 Fall of ice (4)
- 27 Measure (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 17

NEWS ROUNDUP

Yami Gautam thanks fans for constant encouragement

Actress Yami Gautam has expressed her gratitude towards people for recognising her hardships and work, and says the encouragement helps her keep going forward.

"Indebted for your love, not only for #GinnywedsSunny but always recognising the hardships & resilience that it takes for someone like myself to sustain here & continue to walk ahead with my head high, no matter what! Each of one us has our own special story...this is mine," Yami wrote on Twitter, along with a note.

The note read: "The amount of love you guys have showered on our work and appreciated our performances makes all the difference to us! Your constant encouragement has been one of the most influential factors in keeping us going through thick and thin of our journey in the industry and it goes on."

The actress was recently seen in romantic-comedy "Ginny Weds Sunny", also starring Vikrant Massey. It is about Ginny, who gets set up with Sunny but the match is not that simple, and complications arise amid love, life, weddings and music. The film is directed by Puneet Khanna.

"Thank you for all the love for #LOL. This film has been toughest for me for health reasons... no song shoot in #GINNYwedsSUNNY went without giddiness and feeling weak but it's my constant support system which kept me going strong and made sure I never feel low even for a fraction of a second," Yami had posted on Instagram last month.



Assam to shut down govt-run madrasas, Sanskrit schools

Guwahati (IANS): The Madrasa Board in Assam would be dissolved and all state-run madrasas would be converted into general schools, State Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The Minister said that the Sanskrit tols (schools) would be closed down as well by the Assam government.

Sarma said that the government has no intention of closing the private madrasas.

"We would soon introduce necessary regulation in this regard. The state government took this decision based on research on madrasas. The

government-run madrasas in Assam would either be converted into regular schools or they would be closed down. Teachers would be transferred to general schools after issuance of a government notification next month," the Minister told the media.

"In order to bring uniformity, teaching the Quran at the cost of government exchequer could not be allowed to continue," he added.

Sarma said that besides the government-run madrasas, Sanskrit tols (schools) would also be closed down in Assam.

He said that Sanskrit tols would be handed over to Kumar Bhaskar-varma Sanskrit University and these would be converted into centres of learning and research where Indian culture, civilisation and nationalism would be studied.

The Minister said the examination structures of madrasas are different with an emphasis on religious studies and not on general subjects required for further higher professional education like medical and engineering.

He claimed that besides the guardians and parents, most of the

students enrolled in the madrasas, want to become doctors and engineers and are not aware of the fact that these are not regular schools.

"A survey conducted by a Gauhati University professor, who happens to be a Muslim, found that the parents and guardians of most of the students of the madrasas are not aware of the fact that their children are not taught the regular subjects but are imparted lessons mostly in theology."

He claimed that, most Islamic scholars are also not in favour of madrasas being run under the gov-

ernment and added that the madrasas were set up in the pre-Independence era and are a legacy of the Muslim League.

According to Sarma, who also holds the Finance and Health portfolios, there are 610 government run madrasas in Assam, for which the state government spends Rs 260 crore annually.

There are nearly 1,000 recognised Sanskrit tols, of which around 100 are government-aided and the state government spends about Rs one crore on Sanskrit tols in the state annually.



Twitter under fire as it shows J&K in China

New Delhi (IANS): A major controversy has erupted after Twitter India showed Jammu and Kashmir as part of Peoples Republic of China in the timelines.

The matter was raised Kanchan Gupta, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) after tweets showed J&K as a part of China.

"So @Twitter has decided to reconfigure geography and declare Jammu & Kashmir as part of People's Republic of #China. If this is not a violation of #India laws, what is? Citizens of India have been punished for far less. But US Big Tech is above the law?", Gupta wrote tagging Telecom and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Several netizens also asked Prasad and the government to take action against Twitter India.

"No @Twitter this is not a freak happenstance,"



Gupta said in another tweet. "@Twitter @TwitterIndia so according to you

Leh is a part of People's Republic of China," said a netizen.

"Kindly look into this and take action appropriately. It's high time that these social media giants be held accountable for their stupidity," a netizen said asking Prasad to action.

"Please take cognizance of this serious matter and take necessary action against @TwitterIndia. They cannot take Indian sovereignty for granted. Don't let them normalize this misadventure," another Twitterati.

India-China to have 8th round of talks next week

The eighth round of India-China military and diplomatic level talks is expected to take place next week to discuss disengagement in Ladakh even as armies of the two countries prepare for snow and winter deployment along the 1,597km Line of Actual Control.

According to senior officials, both sides are not im-

patient over a resolution on the friction points but have decided to keep the dialogue channels open at both military commander and diplomatic levels. The talks are also aimed at preventing any vertical escalation on the friction points either due to an accident or aggressiveness of an individual commander.

While the Peoples Liberation Army has proposed that both sides withdraw armoured and artillery units as part of de-escalation first and then go for disengagement of infantry, the Indian side is very clear that armoured units cannot be withdrawn as it will give advantage to the adversary due to terrain and capability.

Ballia firing accused, 2 others, arrested

Lucknow (IANS): Dharendra Pratap Singh, the absconding main accused in the Ballia murder case, was arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) in Lucknow on Sunday morning, police said.



Dhirendra, carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head, was arrested near the Janeshwar Mishra Park in Gomti Nagar area. Two other accused, Santosh Yadav and Amarjeet Yadav, were also arrested on Sunday.

On Thursday, a 46-year-old man was killed in a firing over a dispute at a meeting for the allotment of ration shops in Durjanpur village in Reoti area in Ballia district.

The crime took place in the presence of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and the Circle Officer of the area.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had taken cognisance of the Ballia shooting and directed that the SDM, CO and police personnel present on the spot be suspended immediately and strictest action taken against the accused.

He said that the role of the officers shall be investigated and, if found guilty, would be proceeded against.

Jai Prakash, 46, was allegedly shot at by Dharendra Pratap Singh when the meeting for the allotment of ration shops was cancelled by the SDM due to a dispute between members of self-help groups.

Yogi govt trying to save criminals, says Priyanka

New Delhi: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took a dig at the Uttar Pradesh government on Sunday. Sharing media reports which claimed that a BJP MLA and his son allegedly protected a man accused of harassing a woman, the Gandhi siblings alleged that the UP government was on a mission to "save criminals."

"How it started: 'beti bachao' (save daughters). How it's going: 'apradhi bachao' (save criminals)", Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Tagging a media report on the incident, Priyanka Gandhi asked in a tweet in Hindi, "Will the UP CM tell that this is happening under which 'mission'? 'Beti bachao' (Save daugh-

ters) or 'Apradhi bachao' (save criminals)?"

The Congress has been attacking the UP government over the issue of alleged rise in crimes against women, particularly after the Hathras incident in which a 19-year-old Dalit woman from the district was allegedly raped and attacked by four men. She later succumbed to her injuries at a Delhi hospital.

The Yogi Adityanath government is fighting severe criticism for its handling of the Hathras case, particularly after the local police cremated the victim's body, allegedly without the family's approval. Currently the CBI is investigating the case.

'Iron Man balloon' triggers panic in UP

Noida: A balloon in the shape of fictional comic character Iron Man let loose in the skies sparked fears of an alien invasion among the residents of Dankaur town in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, the police said.

The balloon filled with gas, that resembled a robot due to its Iron Man structure, was spotted over the town, which later landed in a canal near Bhatta Parsaul village. A crowd gathered at the spot to see what some of them thought was "an alien", officials said. "It was a balloon filled with air that had gone up in the sky and later came down and got stuck in the bushes along the canal. A part of the balloon was touching the flowing water in the canal which had led the balloon to shake a little. Unbeknown to the spectators, this made for an anxious watch," Dankaur police official Anil Kumar Pandey said.



'Coronavirus survives on skin for 9 hours'



Tokyo: The Coronavirus remains active on human skin for nine hours, Japanese researchers have found, in a discovery they said showed the need for frequent hand washing to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pathogen that causes the flu survives on human skin for about 1.8 hours by comparison, said the study published this month in the Clinical Infectious Diseases journal.

"The nine-hour survival of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus strain that causes Covid-19) on human skin may increase the risk of contact transmission in comparison with IAV (influenza A virus), thus accelerating the pandemic," it said.

The research team tested skin collected from autopsy specimens, about

NZ Ardern credits virus response for poll win

Auckland : A day after winning a second term in a landslide victory, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she sees the election result as an endorsement of her government's efforts to stamp out the coronavirus and reboot the economy.

Speaking at a cafe near her Auckland home, Ardern said she expects to form a new government within three weeks and to prioritise work on the virus response.

"We're cracking on very quickly with the work we need to do as a new team," Ardern said.

Ardern's liberal Labour Party got 49 per cent of the vote, crushing the conservative National Party, which got 27 per cent.

Ardern said the margin of the victory exceeded their expectations.

IGP dies of COVID in Patna

Patna (IANS): Bihar Police's Purnea Range Inspector General of Police Binod Kumar died of Covid-19 here early Sunday morning, official sources said.

The 59-year-old Bihar cadre IPS officer was admitted at Patna's All India Institute of Medical Sciences for the last four days after he was referred from a Purnea hospital as he was found coronavirus positive.

He was a patient of diabetes and his health deteriorated due to the virus infection.

Patna Civil Surgeon Dr Umesh Sharma confirms his death due to COVID-19.

one day after death.

Both the coronavirus and the flu virus are inactivated within 15 seconds by applying ethanol, which is used in hand sanitisers.

"The longer survival of SARS-CoV-2 on the skin increases contact-transmission risk; however, hand hygiene

can reduce this risk," the study said.

The study backs World Health Organization guidance for regular and thorough hand washing to limit transmission of the virus, which has infected nearly 40 million people around the world since it first emerged in China late last year.

Trump promises free Covid antibody

Washington: United States President Donald Trump told his supporters in Wisconsin that all Americans will get the coronavirus treatment he received for free.

"We're gonna make, what I had, available to everybody, free. The antibodies, I think the antibodies are the best thing. We're gonna make it free," Trump said at his campaign rally in Janesville, Wisconsin on Saturday. "This election is a choice between a Trump super recovery and a Biden depression," Trump added.



Earlier in the day, speaking at another rally in Muskegon, Michigan, Trump warned that a Democratic victory in the November elections could make the coronavirus situation worse in Michigan, as well as the US as a whole.

"Democrats would terminate our recovery with a draconian unscientific lockdown like your governor is doing right now," Trump said, stressing that "Biden will shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic." Trump resumed his campaign trail earlier this month, holding his first rally (since his positive COVID19 diagnosis) in Sanford, Florida.

Sena welcomes Amit Shah's stand on Maha Guv-CM letter row

Mumbai (PTD): Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday welcomed Union Home Minister Amit Shahs remark that Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari could have chosen his words better while writing to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on re-opening places of worship in the State.

Talking to a TV channel, Raut also said that with Shah's statement, the Shiv Sena has put the issue to rest.

Koshyari recently wrote to Thackeray on reopening places of worship in the state and asked if the Shiv Sena president had "suddenly turned secular," triggering a war of words between the governor and the chief minister.



Shah on Saturday told a news channel that "Koshyari could have chosen his words better".

Reacting to it, Raut said Shah is the country's Home minister and speaks with responsibility and caution.

The Raj Bhavan and the office of governor is a constitutional institution and

falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, he said.

"The governors letter followed by the chief minister's reply was an unavoidable controversy and we haven't started it. But, we are satisfied with the Union Home Ministers stand and thank him for understand-

ing the reason of our anger," said Raut.

Raut dismissed speculation that Shah was being soft on the Shiv Sena, a year it snapped its ties with the BJP. "There is nothing political. What Shah spoke was in line with the Constitution of India," he said.

On Shah's comments that the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death should have been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) earlier, Raut asked, "Why should that have been done when the Mumbai Police are capable of probing it?"

"Before the investigation was completed, the case went to the CBI. What has the CBI found? Truth will come out," the Shiv Sena leader said.

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It's time the civic body acted right, city is under threat

The way life has been thrown out of gear in the global city of Hyderabad following heavy rains last Tuesday and a repeat performance on Friday evening should be a matter of serious concern for the GHMC and the State government. It is time a serious exercise is made to see that some drastic changes are brought to our urban planning. One night's rain cannot be allowed to bring civic life to halt. It is just not enough to keep repeating the word that the city has Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb. In 1908, Hamara Shahar Hyderabad had witnessed devastating floods in Musi which killed thousands of people. The then government of Nizam built new reservoirs upstream and developed a new drainage system to prevent recurrence of floods. The water bodies, channels and storm water drains, popularly known as nalas, were further improved. Qutb Shahi and Asaf Jahi rulers with their foresight had debated and promoted a system to prevent flooding even in the highest rainfall. The system comprised a chain of lakes, channels connecting lakes to the river, open

spaces and swamp areas to suck in rain water and storm water drains. The disaster the city had witnessed makes it clear that it's time the government and Baldia take some firm decisions and ensure that the "world class" city gets a good drainage system. It makes a little to have inflow and outflow channels drain down north and south basins into the Musi river since they have been prevented from draining into the river. The city cannot be anymore allowed to turn into a river. It is not that the planners and the political executive do not know about it. They do know but they are not displaying the kind of political will that is required. May be due to some political considerations. If such a pathetic situation has to be avoided, merciless demolition of all encroachments is must. This could include demolitions in the old city as well. But then since the present government has been taking several 'revolutionary decisions' it should not be a real problem for them to take up all illegal demolitions. The pink party has people with them and it has been proved time and again in all elections. This being the case, if it works out a proper time bound action plan immediately and takes all stakeholders into confidence, they would certainly get the co-operation of all sections of people including their friendly party AIMM and this can facilitate easy illegal demolitions. Kerala, was saved from the devastating floods in

2018 and 2019 after a project named 'Operation Anantha' was implemented with focus on clearing the drains five years ago. It was made possible by the determination of a team of officials. The TRS government which hopes to sweep the Baldia elections which would be held soon, should come up with some such action plan. With the kind of technology and concepts of advance planning that was available must be introduced in our city. The State disaster management must be made operational full-time. Laws on urban planning must be implemented strictly, violators should be punished ruthlessly and bureaucrats responsible for the lapses should be made accountable. Law breakers should not be allowed to thrive at the cost of lives and livelihood of the rest. It is time the GHMC pulls out the report of the committee that was constituted after the floods of 2000 which had suggested certain measures to improve nalas. The committee which went into various aspects had identified that there were 28,000 encroachments. In the last two decades such encroachments would have further increased. Maybe the city drainage system can be improved in the next three years if the government takes a decision and shows its determination. If the government makes this as its single point agenda and if it can clearly present an action plan, winning polls will be very easy for them.

For autonomous State GST rates

THE WAY AHEAD



Dr Bharat Jhunjhunwala

Interstate movement of goods was troublesome before the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST). Every State used to classify goods according to its understanding and collected Sales Tax at different rates.

For example, kraft paper could be classified as "packing material" and taxed at 20 percent in one State, while it could be classified as "paper" in another State and taxed at 25 percent. These variations led to a number of disputes at the borders and hampered interstate trade. The Union government implemented a GST system which classified all goods in the same category and imposed the same rate of tax across the country. The businesspersons no longer had to calculate the different rates of Sales Tax applicable in different States while making a sale. The businessperson in Mumbai today does not have to calculate the different rates of GST on the same goods sold to Cuttack and Delhi.

However, the States were not willing to give up their autonomous power to levy Sales Tax as per their requirements. In order to overcome their resistance, the Union government assured them that it will compensate them for any shortfall in GST during the next five years. This compensation was to be calculated assuming a 14 percent increase in GST per year. The present problem is that the economy has been slowing for the last four years since the implementation of GST, thus the collections are less while the Union government is committed to compensate the States at the rate of 14 percent increase. The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed the matter to the brink. The Union government is unable to compensate the States as they were promised. A huge amount of Rs 2.35 lakh crore has become due to the States. The Union government has made a scheme that it will borrow Rs 1.1 lakh crore and pass on the loan to the States to help them meet their expenses during the delayed payment of compensation. However, the States will have to bear the interest burden on this loan.

This GST system has taken away the autonomy of the States. Previously every State had the authority to change the rate of Sales Tax. For example, Himanchal could collect higher rates on room heaters and Tamil Nadu on air conditioners which are bought more in the two States respectively. In consequence, the States are caught in a bind. They cannot increase the GST rates in case they want to raise money, for example, to make a highway or a metro. The situation will become catastrophic for a number of States after the end of the five years when the Union government's assurance to compensate for loss of revenue will come to an end. Reportedly some States will see a sudden decline in their revenues by up to 40 percent. They will not be able to even pay



the salaries of their police and revenue personnel. The entire law and order situation in these States can crumble.

We should consider giving autonomy to the States to fix the rates of GST. A number of large countries provide such an autonomy. Canada, for example, has three types of GST. Only 5 percent "Federal" GST is collected on goods sold in Alberta. Five percent "Federal" GST and 7 percent Provincial States Tax (PST) is collected in British Columbia. The two taxes are combined and a 13 percent Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is collected in Ontario which includes a 5 percent share of the Federal government. The movement of goods from one State to another remains seamless despite this multiplicity of GST rates. There are no border checks. The seller collects GST as applicable in the State of the buyer. For example, seller "A" in Alberta will collect only 5 percent "Federal" GST on goods sold to a buyer within the State. The same seller "A" in Alberta will collect 5 percent "Federal" GST and 7 percent PST, total 12 percent, on goods sold to a buyer "B" in British Columbia. Now, let us say, the buyer "B" in British Columbia sells those goods to a buyer "C" in Ontario. In this situation "B" will take setoff of 12 percent GST (5 percent "Federal" GST and 7 percent PST) and collect 13 percent HST from the buyer "C" in Ontario. All the taxes — GST, PST and HST — are collected by the Federal government and then distributed to the States on the basis of the bills raised.

We can modify the present GST into such a system. A seller "X" in Maharashtra may collect 18 percent GST on goods sold to a buyer within the State if Maharashtra does not impose a PST. The same seller "X" in Maharashtra will collect 18 percent GST and, say, 2 percent PST, total 20 percent, on goods sold to a buyer "Y" in Andhra

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Pradesh if Andhra has a 2 percent PST. Now, let us say, the buyer "Y" in Andhra Pradesh sells those goods to a buyer "Z" in Odisha. In this situation "Y" will take setoff of 20 percent GST (18 percent GST and 2 percent PST) and collect 18 percent GST and 7 percent PST, total 25 percent from the buyer "Z" in Odisha if the PST in Odisha is 7 percent. Such a system will restore the autonomy of the States to impose addition PST as per their requirement. At the end of 5 years, Punjab can impose a, say, 5 percent PST and save itself from bankruptcy.

Canada has gone beyond GST and provided autonomy to the States to levy Provincial Income Tax. The Federal government collects Federal Income Tax @15 percent on taxable income up to 49,000 Canadian dollars. A taxpayer in Alberta pays an additional 10 percent Provincial Income Tax on taxable income of 131,000 Dollars, one in British Columbia pays an additional 5 percent Provincial Income Tax on taxable income of 42,000 dollars and one in Ontario pays an additional 5 percent

Provincial Income Tax on taxable income of 45,000 dollars. Every State in Canada has autonomy to collect both GST and Income Tax as per its requirement. A similar system is in place in the United States of America. I know of a person who has changed her domicile from New Jersey to Florida to take advantage of lower rates of Provincial Income Tax in that State.

We must soon provide a similar autonomy to our States. This will eliminate the pressure on the Union government to continue compensating the States for shortfall in GST beyond the five years committed earlier. It will restore the ability of the States to raise revenues to make water recharging structures, highways and metros. It will save the unity of the country that is being threatened due to the States being bound with lower revenues and higher expenses.

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

There can be no intra Afghan talks unless Ghani steps aside

SAEED NAQVI

President Donald Trump and his National Security Adviser, Robert C O' Brien are aching to announce troop withdrawal from Afghanistan as a last-minute sweetener for the American voter, rather like floral touches in an Indian wedding. Gen Mark A Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is probably looking at life beyond Trump, unless there is a second coming. He is talking of ending the Afghan war "responsibly", which means "not in a hurry".

When President Barack Obama had set firm deadlines for withdrawal, I made an extensive survey of the country for the Observer Research Foundation. I had concluded that the US is "not leaving Afghanistan today; it is not leaving it tomorrow." A superpower enters a major theatre with one set of interests but, over a period of time, develops multiple compelling interests.

Why would a country, which is directly involved in 14 shooting wars in various parts of the globe, walk away from its longest war ever without any identifiable gain. Withdrawing empty handed would be an admission of defeat. Since this is not on the cards, the only conclusion one can draw is that a plan for the future is not being disclosed for now.

US involvement in Afghanistan has been a great tragedy, but its frequent false starts in a rush to the exit door and announce withdrawal, is material for a spoof by someone like Michael Moore. Take for instance the peace agreement the US signed with the Afghan Taliban on February 29 in Doha. So eager was US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad to flourish a peace agreement just when the election campaign in the US was picking up that he would have inserted into the agreement anything the Taliban wished. Read the title headline of that agreement: it is patently absurd.

"Agreement for bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan which is not recognised by the United States as a State and is known as the Taliban and the United States of America." The fragility of the agreement is transparent in the pulls and counter pulls that have obviously gone into the headline. There is unbridgeable distance on the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's role, for instance. The Taliban will not talk to Ghani whom they describe quite brazenly as a US "toady".

Ghani deludes himself if he imagines he is being "firm". He is coming across to the world at large as a leader with a very thick skin. New Delhi wishes to keep appearances. In the trapeze act, South Block does not wish to be seen loosening the clasp of Ghani's hand mid-air. The zero-sum game with Pakistan may operate as a factor but, in deference to realism, not a defining one.

If New Delhi is seen to be digging in for Ghani, it will only find itself embarrassed down the line because it is clear as daylight that intra Afghan talks will not move unless Ghani steps aside. By visiting Islamabad and New Delhi, Abdullah Abdullah is positioning himself to step in as soon as the opportunity arises. This is not a process that is likely to reach fruition before the end of the year. So, no confetti on election eve.

One of the advantages the US extracts from its position of being a superpower is to keep making mistakes almost wilfully without any fear of being called to account. It is almost a forgotten story that in December 2001 NATO, helped by Russia, Iran, India and the Northern Alliance headquartered in the Panjsher valley defeated Taliban and Al-Qaeda. Punjsher was also the operational headquarters for the Tajik hero Ahmad Shah Masoud. So strong was Masoud's opposition to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, that he travelled extensively to acquaint various international fora of the danger that Al-Qaeda and Taliban posed to Afghanistan. His address to the European Parliament in the summer of 2001, months before 9/11 was historic by any yardstick. Complete silence on this speech of Masoud's is surprising. His forces had picked up chatter about a possible Al-Qaeda action in the American mainland. He was speaking in Brussels. On September 9, precisely two days before September 11 (9/11) two Arabs, disguised as journalists, visited him in his hideout near the Tajik border for an interview. Their passports, it was revealed much later, had been forged in Brussels. These "journalists", while saying goodbye to Masoud, detonated their vests. All three died instantly. Two days later, the twin towers came down in New York. Is there nothing here that deserves investigation?

Maybe not before the US elections, but is the curtain about to be brought down on US involvement? Whether Trump or Joe Biden wins the election, China, Russia, and Iran are likely to remain America's adversarial concerns.

A little over a year ago, just when US military involvement in Syria was winding down, one common chatter was about Jabhat al Nusra and its variants being flown to newer theatres of action. Russia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Morgulov Igor Vladimirovich told a high-powered conference in New Delhi, with Zalmay Khalilzad in attendance, that militants were being flown from Syria to Northern Afghanistan. "Only the Afghan government and the US controls the Afghan air space." The blame cannot be placed at any other door. Khalilzad mounted a token protest but nothing more.

The following Friday Iran's Supreme leader, Ali Khamenei was more specific: Daesh groups were being flown to Afghanistan. The distinguished chronicler of the West Asian scene, Robert Fisk of the Independent made similar allegations. The allegation fitted neatly into the thesis that militants, trained to kill, cannot be sent to the slaughterhouse. They have to be deployed in other theatres where they are proximate to Muslim population into which militancy has to be injected to stir up the Islamic cauldron -- Xinxiang, the Caucasus and a handful of Sunni enclaves in Iran.

(The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues. The views expressed are personal)



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LETTERS

Silence is a bad strategy

Merely making allegations, whether by an ordinary citizen or a Chief Minister, does not mean that that they are true. But in order to decide whether there is truth to the allegations, an impartial inquiry is essential. Being a popular leader and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's allegations against our judiciary needs to be clarified as early as possible. When the person making the allegation holds a high constitutional office, it becomes even more essential that the matter is dealt seriously and swiftly. This is because the moment the letter was released to the public, questions have already been seeded in the minds of the people. Doubts about the functioning of sitting judges of the highest court of the land do not bode well for the reputation of the judiciary and its independence. But there has been silence from the Supreme Court, even as many outside are using this as an opportunity to sling mud. It is to be noted that the court's reputation as far as dealing with allegations against sitting judges is already at a low. In April last year, when an employee of the court wrote letters to judges accusing the then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi of sexual harassment, an in-house committee of judges was formed. But it dismissed the allegations even without allowing the complainant to exercise her right of representation. Silence is certainly not a good strategy. At stake is public trust in the judiciary.

Ashok Kumar B, Vijayawada

Love doesn't have religion

This is with reference to the reports on a jewellery brand - Tanishq - withdrawing its ad following protests from Hindu fundamentalists. Reacting vehemently to a fictional depiction of a Hindu girl having been married into a Muslim family is not just intolerance, it is something much more sinister. Let us face it. All this talk about the so-called "love jihad", suggestive of an anti-national conspiracy, is just a façade, a clever design to conceal their real motives. The fact is that those who opposed the ad really do not want any relations at all between the two communities.

This kind of bigoted people do not seem to tolerate the very existence of Muslims anymore. Given a chance, they would like the Muslims to vanish out of mind and out of sight, the narratives of marginalisation and social exclusion paling before it. They would want them to become invisible. Maintenance of communal peace in the society under the threat of legal action is one thing; a wilful, happy acceptance of the diverse components of our society is quite another. Communal harmony, as we love to envisage, is dead for all practical purposes.

Hatred has irretrievably cleaved the spine of our multiracial, multicultural society. Now, the best we can hope to do is to redeem our individual souls by relating to and loving "the others" at our individual levels. Let love not die within our hearts; society may be damned.

Sushma Vemula, Hyderabad

Ad that shows communal harmony irks bigots

The advertisement of Tanishq jewellery for its new collection called 'Ekatvam' which means 'oneness' showed a Muslim family organising a traditional Hindu baby shower ceremony, for their Hindu daughter-in-law. Tanishq crafted a beautiful ad that depicted the story of Hindu women married into a Muslim family. The ad is beautiful confluence of two different religions' tradition and culture. It is a sweet ad which shows that you can express your love to other person irrespective of caste.

But it is disgusting that the ad was pulled out by Tanishq due to uproar in social media by hatemongers and bigots. Trolls accused the jewellery brand of promoting what they called "love jihad" an inter faith marriage. The ad was promoting brotherhood between two religions. They showed a loving Muslim family and how caring they are towards their Hindu bahu. The Hindu-Muslim 'Ekatvam' has irked the hatemongers. It is sad to note that the ad was pulled out due to trolls accusing it of promoting "love jihad." I don't understand what is wrong with celebrating traditions across religions. It is really sad to see where our country is heading for?

Zakir Hussain, Kazipet, Warngal Urban

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Govt appoints chairpersons to 56 BC corporations



BC Welfare Minister Ch Srinivasa Venugopalakrishna addressing the media in Tadepalli on Sunday. Deputy Chief Minister Dharmana Krishna Das, Minister Botcha Satyanarayana and others are seen.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The State government announced the list of chairpersons to 56 BC Corporations, which were set up for the development of BCs, on Sunday.

Women got more than 50 per cent chairperson posts. As many as 29 corporations out of a total 56 are going to be led by women as chairpersons. In addition to this, the State government also

appointed 12 directors for each corporation providing representation to all the 13 districts.

Speaking on this occasion, Minister for BC Welfare, Ch Venugopalakrishna said that the State is always committed to development of BCs and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy brought in this initiative of setting up 56 BC corporations for the welfare of 139 BC castes, to focus on their all-round development.

As promised during elections to provide separate corporations for every community to accord equal priority, the Chief Minister kept his word through the appointment of chairpersons to various corporations. After a careful study, out of 138 castes, 56 castes with over 30,000 population were finalised to have separate corporations, where the funds will be allocated to them and the communities will receive more benefits from their

More than 50% of chairperson posts allotted to women

own corporation.

The Chief Minister has taken a decision to implement 50 per cent quota to women and provide more posts to them, the Minister said.

Reiterating that the State government gives priority to BC welfare and strives for their upliftment, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana said that this is first of its kind initiative taken up by any State in the country, providing an equal platform for every BC community.

Further, he slammed the Opposition TDP leaders for trying to create controversies over the novel initiative and stated that the previous TDP government failed to deliver the promises made to BCs and had never bothered about them.

Ministers Dharmana Krishnadas, Botcha Satyanarayana, Anil Kumar Yadav, Shankar Narayana and MP Mopidevi Venkataramana were present.

CM fulfilled his election promise: Muttamsetti

- Hails creation of 56 corporations for BCs
- Alleges that the previous TDP govt considered BCs only as vote bank

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: With the creation of 56 corporations, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will remain in the hearts of the BCs forever, said Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao here on Sunday.

Hailing the announcement of the chairmen, chairpersons and directors of the BC Corporations, the Minister said the government cares for the BCs and it's the first time that the State formed 56 corporations for the BCs.

At a press conference held here, the Minister alleged that the previous TDP government had only considered backward castes for vote bank.

The Minister reiterated that the Chief Minister formed the BC corporations and fulfilled the promise made during the 'Padayatra'.

Srinivasa Rao flayed TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and their followers for opposing every move of the State government. The newly nominated BC chairpersons Kola Guruvulu and P Sujatha were felicitated on the occasion.

City party president Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, former MLA Malla Vijaya Prasad, party leaders KK Raju, Ravi Reddy, Bheemunipatnam constituency in-charge Muttamsetti Mahesh and others participated in the programme.



Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao felicitating the newly nominated BC chairpersons in Visakhapatnam on Sunday

State logs 3,986 new cases

- Overall recoveries rise to 7.4 lakh
- 23 deaths reported during last 24 hours and toll rises to 6,429

Amaravati: Another 3,986 cases of coronavirus were added in Andhra Pradesh taking its overall tally to 7.83 lakh on Sunday.

The total recoveries now increased to 7.40 lakh after 4,591 got cured in 24 hours, the latest bulletin said.

Also, the State reported 23 more Covid-19 deaths, the lowest in a day in more than four months. The total toll in the State has gone up to 6,429.

Kurnool reported the lowest 55 new cases, the first time for any district in the State in many months. But the significant thing appeared to be the mounting cases in Krishna district which last month showed a declining trend. It reported 503 new cases in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday, after 200s and 300s for some days now. West Godavari added 528, Guntur 496, East Godavari 481 and Chittoor 458.

Chittoor, Guntur and Krishna districts reported four fresh fatalities each.

The active cases in the State now reduced to 36,474.

AP has so far completed 70 lakh samples tests, at the rate of 1.32 lakh per million and overall infection positivity rate of 11.08 per cent.

Two youth feared drowned in sea

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Guntur: Two students who went into sea for cleaning their hands and feet at Pandurangapuram Beach in Bapatla went missing on Sunday.

According to Bapatla rural Circle Inspector K Srinivasa Reddy, the two students along with 11 other friends came from Martur in Prakasam district for swimming in the sea. They went to Suryalanka Beach for swimming and the police did not allow them due to Covid-19. Subsequently, they went to Pandurangapuram for swimming in the sea. They enjoyed in sea till the evening. Before returning from the place they washed their car.

Meanwhile, J Rajesh (17) and A Moses (18) went into the sea to clean their hands and feet. Due to the speed of tidal waves, they fell down in the sea and were washed away. Though their friends tried to rescue them, their efforts went in vain.

On securing information, the police pressed swimmers into service to trace the youth. While Rajesh has completed his Intermediate, Moses is studying polytechnic. Bapatla rural police are investigating the case.

NAVARATRI FESTIVAL ON INDRAKEELADRI

Over 10,500 devotees have darshan of deity on second day

- Covid guidelines being strictly followed while allowing devotees for darshan at Kanakadurga temple
- Laksha Kumkumarchana, Chandi Homam and other rituals being performed

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: More than 10,000 devotees had the darshan of Goddess Kanakadurga on Indrakeeladri on the second day of the Navaratri celebrations on Sunday.

The deity was adorned as Sri Bala Tripuran Sundari Devi. The temple administration allowed the devotees from 5 am on Sunday and the darshan ended at 8 pm. On the first day, the devotees were allowed from 9 am after the completion of rituals. By 6 pm on Sunday, 10,655 devotees had darshan of the presiding deity, said the Temple Trust Board chairman P Sominaidu and Executive Officer M Suresh Babu. They spoke to the media in the evening and furnished the details of darshan.

Compared to Saturday, the

number of devotees increased on the second day. The temple staff strictly followed the Covid guidelines and allowed the devotees, who wore the masks. Besides, physical distance is also being maintained in the queue lines.

The temple income was Rs 8.25 lakh on the second day. It was made by sale of laddus, tickets and auction of sarees. Laksha kumkumarchana, Chandi Homam and other rituals were performed on the requests of the devotees.

The devotees began visiting the temple since morning and continued till afternoon. Due to Covid restrictions, the temple administration announced that only 10,000 devotees would be allowed for darshan.

Temple EO Suresh Babu has appealed to the pilgrims to take tickets online for darshan in the remaining days. He said the tickets would be sold manually at the counters if the online tickets are not sold. On the third day, the deity will be adorned as Sri Gayatri Devi and arrangements are underway for the darshan of devotees from early morning 5 am on Monday.



Priests performing Kumkuma Puja to the Goddess on the second day of Navaratri festival at Kanakadurga temple on Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Sunday. (Bottom) Artistes beating the drums as part of the celebrations on Indrakeeladri on Sunday.



TTD EO inspects amenities at MTV Annaprasadam Bhavan

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirumala: TTD Executive Officer Dr K S Jawahar Reddy on Sunday inspected the Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam Bhavan and Vaikunta queue complex, the entry point for pilgrims for darshan at Tirumala and gave specific instructions to employees to improve quality of service and amenities to devotees.

The TTD EO along with Additional EO A V Dharma Reddy also took part in Annaprasadam at the Annaprasadam Bhavan during the inspection and appreciated the quality of food items given to devotees. He also interacted with pilgrims to collect feedback on free meal provided by the TTD.

Speaking to reporters near Annaprasadam Bhavan, the TTD EO said devotees coming for Srivari Darshan were happy about all the facilities provided in Tirumala like quality Anna Prasadam and accommodation.

At the MTV Annaprasadam complex, he inspected the cold

storage, kitchen and the dining halls and lauded the services of staff after interaction with the devotees for providing delicious and quality food items.

At the Vaikuntam Queue Complex, the TTD EO inspected the entry points of Sarva darshan, Pratyeka darshan and Divya darshan (foot walking devotees).

He also reviewed the system for depositing mobiles and

footwear's, supply of Annaprasadam, coffee and tea, milk for infants, phone facility and dispensaries for emergency medical treatment to devotees waiting for darshan in the queue compartments.

TTD VGOs Manohar, Prabhakar, DyEO of Anna Prasadam Nagaraj, Catering Officer GLN Shastri, Peishkar of Srivari Temple Jaganmohan Charyulu and others participated.



TTD Executive Officer Dr K S Jawahar Reddy inspecting the amenities at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam Bhavan in Tirumala on Sunday. Additional EO A V Dharma Reddy is also seen

2nd wave of Covid can't be ruled out in winter

Continued from P1

"In India, the new coronavirus cases and number of deaths have declined in the last three weeks and the pandemic has stabilised in most of the states.

"However, there are five states (Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal) and 3-4 Union Territories (UTs), where there is still a rising trend," Paul said.

He is heading the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEG-VAC).

INDIA PAST COVID PEAK

Continued from P1

As of now, 1.14 lakh people have died in India because of the disease. However, further lockdowns are 'undesirable', the committee has recommended since they are unlikely to have any significant impact.

The committee has said the upcoming festival season, and the approaching winters, might 'increase the susceptibility' of the people to this infection, and therefore, has recommended that current protective measures must be continued.

TDP alleges fraud in supply of stationery to Secretariat

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The YSRCP leaders and contractors committed irregularities in supply of stationery to the State Secretariat, alleged senior TDP leader and former Minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao on Sunday.

He demanded that the government put facts before the people on the irregularities committed.

Uma alleged that crores of rupees of public funds were being swindled in the name of supply of papers, pens and ink etc to various departments.

The TDP leader alleged that the contractors were being paid Rs 3,000 for every Rs 1,000 worth stationery. Moreover, far less material was being taken. In the name of shortage of papers and other

Former Minister Devineni Uma says YSRCP leaders are involved in the scam

materials, money was being collected illegally from the general applicants.

Uma demanded that the government give details of the contractors to whom the supply of stationery was allotted and the basis on which the allotment was made.

Excess payments were a clear indication of yet another massive scam taking place right in the seat of State administration, he said.

NMC doctors on strike from today

Continued from P1

Dr Abhimanyu, president of Resident Doctors Association of Bada Hindurao Hospital, said that due to non-payment of salaries for three months, doctors and health workers are facing a lot of problems. Many doctors have no money left to pay the rent of the house.

Meanwhile, AIIMS resident doctors have also come in support of the doctors of the corporation. On Saturday, doctors supported the strike by lighting a candle in the hospital premises. Dr Adarsh, president of AIIMS RDA, said that the doctors are engaged in serving corona patients regardless of life. This is not right for them.

New US Congress may see more Indian-Americans

Continued from P1

Kulkarni, 42, had narrowly lost the 2018 Congressional elections. Local media and political pundits are giving him a greater chance to enter the House of Representatives. He hopes to be the first Indian American to be elected to the House from Texas.

All eyes are on the Senate race in Maine, where the Democrats are pinning hope on Indian-origin Senator Sara Gideon to win the seat against powerful Republican Senator Susan Collins. Gideon, 48, whose father is from India and mother from Armenia, has consistently maintained a lead against Collins in almost all the recent polls.

Senator Harris, 55, has scripted history by becoming the first Indian American and first ever Black and African American to be nominated as a vice presidential candidate by a major political party.

Dr Bera, 55, who is seeking his fifth consecutive term to the House of Representatives, is the longest-serving Indian American in the Congress. He represents the seventh Congressional District of California. He is being challenged by Republican Buzz Patterson, a military veteran.

Seeking a third Congressional term, Congressman Ro Khanna is facing challenge from another Indian-American Ritesh Tandon of Republican Party. Khanna has

raised a whopping USD 3.6 million for his election campaign as against a paltry USD 152,000 by Tandon.

Congresswoman Jayapal, who is seeking her third-consecutive attempt, in such a short span of time has emerged as one of the top Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives.

Representing seventh Congressional District of Washington State, Ms Jayapal is being challenged by Republican Craig Keller, who is said to have little chance in the November 3 polls.

Democratic Krishnamoorthi is pitted against Preston Nelson of the Libertarian Party in the November elections from the eighth Congressional District of Illinois. The seat is a Democratic stronghold, so much so that the Republican Party had cancelled its primary this year as no candidates filed for this seat.

There are a few other Indian Americans running for the Congress this year, to whom the media and political pundits are giving little chance. At the same time, their presence in the electoral field is reflective of the increasing interest of Indian Americans in joining the country's electoral politics.

Prominent among them being Rik Mehta of the Republican Party against popular Democratic Senator Cory Booker from New Jersey.



Always go against the tide. Buy when others are selling and sell when others are buying
-Rakesh Jhunjhunwala



HANS INVEST

Stocks.MFs.Bonds.Commodities

DELHI MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2020

Mkts looking to global cues, Q2 results

CHERUKURI KUTUMBA RAO

Spooked by negative global cues, concerns over rising second wave of coronavirus in Europe and USA and lack luster stimulus package from GoI; the markets snapped its 10-day winning streak to close on an uncertain note during the week ended. The NSE Nifty shed 152 points, or 1.27 per cent to close at 11,762 and the BSE Sensex fell by 527 points, or 1.30 per cent to end at 39,983. Broader markets continued to underperform the benchmark indices. However, the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices were seen forming a higher base at their 80 per cent retracement. This has been backed by sturdy market breadth as currently 65 per cent stocks of Nifty mid-cap and small-cap indices are above 200 days SMA compared to last two week's reading of 55 per cent. Catch up activity indicated as the Q2 results season progresses. Weed out non-performers and induct portfolio with good Midcap and Smallcap companies which are exhibiting good visibility of earnings for coming quarters. FIIs continued to be net buyers in October which could be one of supporting factors for the market, though DIIs remained on the sell side so far in current month.

However, it is pertinent to observe that investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital market dropped at September-end marking the first decline in investment through the route since March. Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit (CAD), plunged 57 percent to \$6.8 billion (around Rs 50,658 crore) during the first half of this fiscal amid a slump in demand due to the

MARKET Khabrein



In the coming fortnight, markets will look forward to the developments in the US presidential elections in the first week of November, Q2 earnings season, Covid-19 updates and visible green shoots in economy, end to the moratorium saga and update on the stimulus plan

Covid-19 pandemic. In the coming fortnight, markets will look forward to the developments in the US presidential elections in the first week of November; Q2 earnings season, Covid-19 updates and visible green shoots in economy, an end to the moratorium saga and an update on the stimulus plan. Weekend results from the

country's largest private lender HDFC Bank were in line with expectations. Net profit rose by 18.4 per cent to Rs 7,513.1 crore for second quarter ended September 2020 (Q2FY21) on substantial growth in interest earnings and other income. Key earnings to watch out for would be Hindustan Unilever, Asian

Paints, Bajaj Auto, ACC, Nestle India, Britannia Industries, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement and Biocon. Results of recently listed SBI Cards and Rossari Biotech are also keenly awaited. The market is fighting with the uncertainty however, the street is eyeing on pre-Covid economic levels.

Heard on the Street: Individual-Investing Boom has fuelled trading in low-priced penny stocks. Zero-commission apps and online brokerages have given a boost in volume for sub-Rs10 stocks. To be sure, some of the activity in sub-Rs10 stocks was caused by the coronavirus-driven selloff in February and March. That temporarily sent some of the midcap and smallcap below the Rs10 mark. Individual trading activity began to soar in late 2019, after several online brokerage houses started offering free stock trades, and it accelerated this year after the coronavirus forced mil-

lions of Indians to stay home with little to do. Retail activity has accounted for almost 20% of trading volume this year, nearly double the level from 2010. There was no clear driver for the rally in several stocks, barring a storm of social-media attention.

Quote of the week: The stock market is filled with individuals who know the price of everything, but the value of nothing. Phillip Fisher Investing without an education and research will ultimately lead to regrettable investment decisions. Research is much more than just listening to popular opinion.

F&O/ Sector watch

Mirroring the undercurrent in cash market, the derivatives segment witnessed sharp selling. In the option segment, the maximum Call option Open Interest (OI) was recorded at 12,000 and maximum Put option open interest was at 11,000. Punters were seen booking profit at higher levels while Call writers were adding hefty OI at 11,800, 11,900 & 12,000 strikes with marginal Put writing at 11,700 strike. The Implied Volatility (IV) of Calls closed at 20.51 per cent, while that for Put options was at 21.69. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 22.06 per cent. PCR OI for the week closed at 1.32 up from the previous week indicating Put writing. Going ahead on account of Q2 results season, expect Nifty to consolidate in the broad range of 11,500-12,000 with stock specific action. Stock futures looking good are ACC, Britannia, JSW Steel, Muthoot Finance, National Aluminium, SAIL, Tata Consumer, Tata Steel and Voltas.

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

IN SHORT

RBI to buy SDLs worth ₹10,000cr

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will purchase of State Development Loans (SDLs) worth Rs 10,000 crore under Open Market Operations (OMO). The auction will be conducted on October 22. The RBI, in a statement, said that it has been decided to conduct a purchase auction of SDLs under OMOs for an aggregate amount of Rs 10,000 crore on October 22, keeping in view that this is the first ever OMO purchase of SDLs. "Depending on market response, the size of the auctions may be enhanced in the subsequent auctions. Accordingly, RBI will purchase the SDLs... through a multi-security auction using the multiple price method," said RBI. Earlier this month, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, in the 'Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies', said: "In order to impart liquidity to SDLs and thereby facilitate efficient pricing, it has been decided to conduct open market operations (OMOs) in SDLs as a special case during the current financial year."

Shakti Pumps Q2 net rises

Shakti Pumps (India) Limited, a listed firm, reported Rs 15.24 crore consolidated net profit for the quarter ended September this fiscal year. It posted a net profit of Rs 3.31 crore in the preceding quarter ended in June 2020. The company reported total income of Rs 201.74 crore during the second quarter as compared to Rs. 93.25 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2020. The EPS for September quarter stood at Rs 8.29. Dinesh Patidar, Chairman and Managing Director, Shakti Pumps, said: "It is because of the untiring efforts of the management and team at Shakti Pumps, that has helped us lead the way in solar pumps manufacturing in the last quarter. We were also able to achieve an increase in agribusiness and exports. We are confident that along with exports, the demand for various rural and solar energy schemes will continue to grow. We have always given importance to research and development and will continue to invest in this department even further." The company said it achieved 178 per cent and 33 per cent quarter-on-quarter upswing in domestic trade and exports respectively during July-September period.

Forex reserves rise by \$5 bn

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves rose \$5.867 billion during the week ended October 9. According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, the reserves increased to \$551.505 billion from \$545.638 billion reported for the week ended October 2. India's forex reserves comprise of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$5.737 billion to \$508.783 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves increased. It rose by \$113 million to \$36.598 billion. Besides, the SDR value was up by \$4 million to \$1.480 billion. Additionally, the country's reserve position with the IMF increased by \$13 million to \$4.644 billion

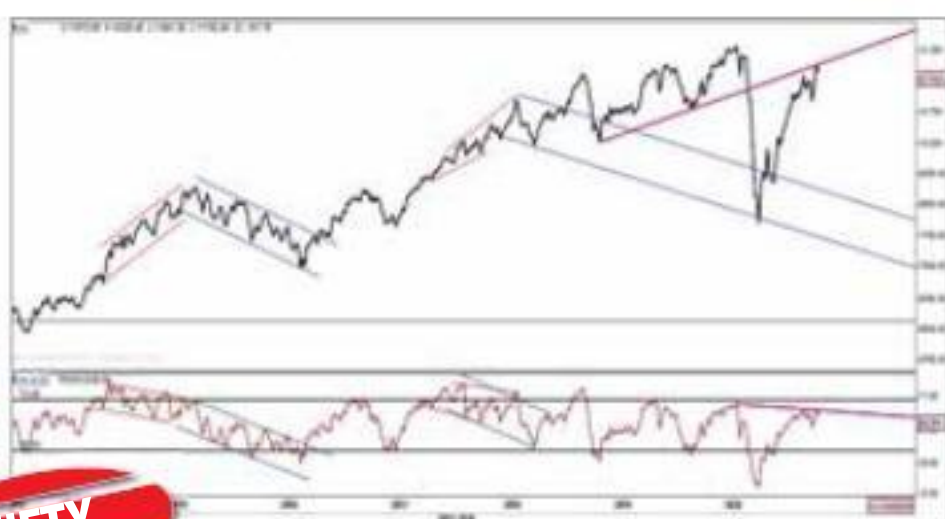
Switch over to stock-specific trading

THOVITI BRAHMACHARY

The Indian stock market faced a stiff resistance after opened the week with a gap up opening. It traded in sideways for the first three days and witnessed a sharp decline on Thursday and erased the gains of the previous week. Finally, the Nifty lost 151.75 points or 1.27 per cent during the last week. The BSE Sensex also declined by 1.3 per cent.

The broader market outperformed as the Nifty Midcap-100, and Smallcap-100 lost only 1.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively. Barring Metal sector index all other sectoral indices closed lower. Nifty Media lost 6.8 per cent, and PSU Bank index declined by 4.7 per cent. The FIIs bought Rs1,186.23 crores and the DIIs sold Rs521.747 crores worth of equities.

The Nifty once again witnessed a sharp sell-off and repeated the August 31 bar at the swing high. On Thursday, the fall has given caution to the traders. This time, the fall was not because of external news impact. The benchmark index added a distribution day and the market breadth was negative. It filled one gap of October 8. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, there is suspicious activity is going on. Many of the bearish classical and candlestick patterns failed. On Friday, the Nifty rose by over 80 points, but the Open Interest in the futures came down by 7.7 per cent, which indicates long unwinding happened in the pull-



back. It reacted from a very critical level. On a weekly line chart, it is quite evident that the earlier supports of Oct 2018 and Aug 2019 have become resistance now. Interestingly, this trendline gave confirmation to the March fall. If we consider 12,025 is a swing high, there is a negative divergence in RSI on Weekly chart. You can see the impact of previous divergences on a weekly line chart. The index is facing resistance after retracing 90 per cent fall from the January highs. This retracement consumed more than 300 per cent time of the fall. As the stock-specific activity and the sector rotation is quite visible, it is difficult to trade the benchmark index with a higher conviction. Even the volume profile suggests that the 11,900-12,025 zone will act as strong resistance for now. At the same time, the low of 10,790 on September 24 is short support. It may spend a lot of time in the zone of 10,790-12,025 area. Unless these two levels are broken with a volume and follow-through day, we can't be neither bullish nor bearish. It will consolidate within the

zone for at least three weeks.

The Elder Impulse system showing that the market has entered into a neutral zone. The MACD histogram significantly declined on weekly and daily charts. The ADX line is improving even after the Nifty went near to the previous lifetime high. This shows the weakness in the trend. The red Heiken-Ashi candle without upper shadow on a daily chart indicates the change in trend direction. As earlier, post-August 31 fall, the witnessed a pullback and formed an inside bar. The inside bar trading rule says that, unless the big bar range broke out, better in sidelines.

I have already mentioned many fundamental factors, which derailed market movement. The market drivers, Reliance, IT and pharma sectors slowed down and consolidated. The private sector banks and metal sectors led the markets last week. As I mentioned above, better avoid trading in the benchmark index and focus on the stock-specific activity. The IT, pharma, metals and private sectors banks are looking good currently. The cement stocks are also making a good structure technically and watch breakouts selectively.

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

It's high time for diversification, asset allocation



K Naresh Kumar

The coronavirus has altered the way we live, do business and invest. This single event has transformed our lives like never in our lifestyles, our travel, our mobility and our perspective towards hygiene and health. In trying to arrest the economic fallout of the remedy to spread the virus i.e. the voluntary lockdown by various countries has brought the economies to standstill. And post the opening up and removed restrictions gotten us to adjust to move around the impending risk, but couldn't bring us back to where we were and how we were.

Major part of the efforts, first to arrest the decline and then revive the economy has been through monetary stimulus though fiscal stimulus has been key to control the former. The western or developed world has cut the interest rates to zero or near zero, while rest of the world has reduced their rates to never witnessed or unprecedented lower levels. Even in India, the current interest rates are at all-time bottoms.



Investors in fixed-income assets suddenly realized the risk of defaults, hence there was a huge outflow from the debt schemes and the risk averseness has gyrated many to allocate to gilts. True, Gilts have no credit risk or almost nil default risk, but they do carry a huge interest rate risk

Earlier while investing, investors were clear or better equipped than now to assess the risk. Let me explain, the risk-free return which is generally considered as the rate of return of bank interest (general parlance, though technically the govt. bonds or GSecs) have hit the bottom and this is very low to that of the requirement (of the individual savers). Moreover, in a conventional contraction (of economy) the rates are gradually reduced and the expectations are set accordingly.

The reset of the asset prices, however, has been uneven since then and the resultant appreciation in the riskier assets along with safe heaven (gold) was witnessed by all of us. The repricing of assets has caught most off-guard or un-

expected as it was difficult to arrive at the renewed valuations. Many investors rushed to park their money in equity with various narratives ranging from subsidizing virus spread to phased reopening to improving macro indicators to weakened virus to vaccines.

The liquidity in the system ensured that the narrative stayed skewed in favor of riskier assets as investors tried to recoup the lost returns or opportunities in the fixed income or debt space. Even before the pandemic, the domestic economy was struggling and this has only exacerbated the situation.

The interest rates are at the lowest in almost two decades for us and we may not see a huge uptick in the immediate future. The tolerance of inflation by

the central bank (across the world) has remained high and so RBI has continued to maintain status quo. Investors in fixed-income assets suddenly realized the risk of defaults, hence there was a huge outflow from the debt schemes and the risk averseness has gyrated many to allocate to gilts. True, Gilts have no credit risk or almost nil default risk, but they do carry a huge interest rate risk. Those who now eye allocations to Gilts were looking at the past performance where the interest rate cuts have enabled for better returns. Instead of chasing for such returns, investors are better-off revisiting their assumptions. At all times, whether the markets are bullish or bearish; if the interest rates are high or lower; one critical factor that needs to be considered at all times is the risk one is willing to take.

In simple words, risk could be defined as how much portion of their capital one is willing to lose to make the additional gain over the risk-free return. If one is clear with this, approach to investing becomes simpler. That's why the need for diversification and asset allocation form the key in achieving it.

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

DERIVATIVES OUTLOOK

DASARI SREENIVASA RAO

Options data indicates resistance level for NSE Nifty declined to 12,000 last week from 12,500 strike a week ago, while support level remains at 11,000 strike. The highest Call Open Interest (OI) was seen at 12,000 strike and maximum Put OI at 11,000 strike after the trading hours on Friday (October 16). The broad-based index NSE Nifty recorded major volatility last week.

Despite trading with a positive bias for most of the week, the Nifty gave away all the gains during the weekly settlement. From the highest Call base of 12,000 strike, it breached most of the Put bases and closed at 11,762 level, declining almost 300 points in a session. Global weak-

ness due to stalemate in fresh US stimulus and fears of renewed lockdown in Europe kept markets under pressure. Derivatives analysts predict that if Nifty slips below 11,700 level, a fresh round of weakness can be expected towards 11,400. However, the Nifty may consolidate above 11,700 due to ongoing result season amid stock-specific movements.

The 12,000 strike has maximum Call OI of 30.37 lakh followed by 12,500 strike with 26.99 lakh contracts, 11,900 strike with 23.96 lakh contracts and 12,200 strike, which recorded highest Call OI of 7.20 lakh contracts, with 19.02 lakh contracts. 12,400/12,300/ 12,200/11,800 strikes witnessed reasonable addition of Call OI.

Coming to the Put side, the 11,000 strike has highest Put OI

Volatility may increase amid renewed undercurrent weakness; PCR of OI at 1.32 indicating Put writing

of 22.72 lakh contracts followed by 11,700 strike, which recorded maximum Put OI addition of 8.13 lakh contracts, with 17.49 lakh contracts, 11,500 strike with 14.16 lakh contracts and 11,600 strike with 13.64 lakh contracts. Further, 11,200/11,000/11,500 strikes recorded significant Put OI build-up.

The long build-up was seen in Ashok Leyland, JSW Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Power, Cipla and Hero MotCo, etc, while long unwinding took place in Asian Paints, PVR, Nestle, PNB, Godrej, Reliance, etc.

"Call writers were adding

hefty Open Interest at 11,800, 11,900 & 12,000 strikes with marginal Put writing at 11,700 strike. For upcoming week, 11,700 level would act as major support for Nifty, while 11,850-11,900 zone would be crucial resistance. We may witness further long unwinding in Nifty till 11,500 levels, if somehow 11,700 levels gets breached," observes Dhirender Singh Bisht, senior research analyst (derivatives) at SMC Global Securities Ltd.

"After gaining for two consecutive weeks, Indian markets took a breather and ended last week on negative note with Nifty end-

| DERIVATIVES TURNOVER | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Product | Contracts | Turnover (₹/cr.) | Premium (₹/cr) |
| Index Futures | 4,74,726 | 32,729.19 | -- |
| Stock Futures | 7,23,284 | 55,917.39 | -- |
| Index Options | 1,75,66,909 | 12,54,660.23 | 9,718.80 |
| Stock Options | 12,46,59 | 21,05,193.16 | 1,959.70 |
| F&O Total | 2,00,11,511 | 14,48,499.97 | 11,678.50 |

ing below 11,800 mark. Traders were seen booking profit at higher levels," added Bisht.

For the week ended October 16, 2020, BSE Sensex further rose by 526.51 points or 1.29 per cent and closed at 39,982.98 points from the previous close of 40,509.49 points.

Similarly, NSE Nifty gained 151.75 points or 1.27 per cent, to end the week at 11,762.45 points as against last week's 11,914.20 level.

Bisht forecasts: "From the technical front, we may see some negative divergence on secondary oscillators, which could cap any sharp upside into the prices. We advise traders to remain cautious, if Nifty breaches 11,700 level on downside. The focus on stock-specific action should be on radar for upcoming week."

According to ICICI Direct.com, the volatility index remained largely in the range of 20-22 levels in the last two

weeks and the analysts expect the same may continue. With the approaching US elections, volatility is likely to move gradually higher from current levels with a resistance near 24 level in the coming week.

"The Implied Volatility of Calls closed at 20.51 per cent, while that for Put options, it closed at 21.69. The Nifty VIX for the week closed at 22.06 per cent. PCR of OI for the week closed at 1.32 up from the previous week indicating Put writing," remarked Bisht.

In the F&O space, FII sold worth Rs842 crore in index futures and to the tune of Rs3,327 crore in the stock futures, while they bought Rs1,414 crore in index options during the week

Bank Nifty

Moving further up by 313.55 points or 1.31 per cent, Bank Nifty closed at 23,533.25 points as against the previous week's closing of 23,846.80 points.

Talasani calls on Naini in hospital

Naini Narasimha Reddy develops infection in lungs and has been on a ventilator support for the last five days

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The TRS party leaders are worried about the deteriorating health condition of Former Minister and party senior leader Naini Narasimha Reddy, who is on a ventilator support. Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav visited Apollo Hospitals at Jubilee Hills on Sunday. According to party leaders, Naini has been undergoing treatment for a long time. After testing negative for corona, he developed infection in lungs and was admitted to the hospital. The party leaders said that the senior TRS leader has been on a ventilator support for the last five days. Health Minister Eatala Rajender too visited the hospital on Saturday. Meanwhile, Srinivas Yadav inquired about the medical services being provided to Naini, and prayed for the speedy recovery.

BJP to seek CBI probe into irrigation projects in State

Party national vice-president DK Aruna accuses the KCR government of failing to address the woes of people who were badly hit by heavy rains

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Bharatiya Janata Party national vice-president DK Aruna said that she would seek a CBI probe into the irregularities into the construction of irrigation projects in Telangana.

Addressing the media here on Sunday, Aruna lashed out at Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's government for "ignoring Palamuru Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation project" and accused the government of swindling funds in the name of changing designs of the projects. She attributed the submergence of Vellur pump house, under Kalwakurthy project following a blast, to the negligence of government.

Aruna has also criticised the State government of using police force to prevent the BJP leaders from visiting the incident spot. "There might be something to



Bharatiya Janata Party national vice-president DK Aruna addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday

hide behind the incident," she said, adding that the engineers had suggested against setting up of an underground pumphouse. But, it seemed that the government has gone ahead with the same resulting in the submergence, she charged.

Against this backdrop, the BJP will urge the Centre to conduct a CBI probe into the irrigation projects in Telangana to unveil the

facts behind the omissions and commissions. She alleged that the TRS government of changing the names and designs of PRRLI and Chevella-Pranahitha projects to mint money. "What was shocking was that the Ministers and TRS leaders wrote a letter opposing.

But, the government preferred to set up the pumphouse underground," she said, adding that the TRS leaders of erstwhile Ma-

habubnagar district should feel ashamed of the pumphouse incident.

She also demanded that the State government should shun lethargy and answer as to when the pumphouse would be restored. Also, at a time when people were facing difficulties, the Chief Minister is confined to the farmhouse. This is despite the continuing fury of rains causing heavy damage to the properties and people in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the State, she said.

Aruna further slammed Municipal Minister KT Rama Rao for touring rain-hit and inundated areas with the Chief Secretary and officials and flayed the government for failing to give Detailed Project Reports of irrigation projects to the apex council. She said the Chief Minister has to give reasons for the same to the people.

MIM henchmen hindering relief work, alleges Shabbir



Senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir distributing relief material in the flood-hit Malakpet area of Hyderabad on Sunday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir has strongly condemned the MIM leadership for engineering attacks on Opposition leaders and NGOs who are distributing relief in the flood-hit areas of Hyderabad.

Shabbir Ali, along with Hyderabad Congress Minorities Department Chairman Sameer Waliullah, TPCC Spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin, senior leader Ashfaq Mohammed Khan and others, visited the flood-hit areas in Malakpet to distribute food, blankets and financial assistance among those whose houses were inundated. However, MIM MLA Ahmed Balala, along with a gang of followers tried to stop the distribution of relief. Due to the timely intervention of Chaderghat police a major clash was averted as the police made both the groups disperse.

"MIM leaders have failed to help the flood victims in the areas which they are representing in Parliament, Assembly and GHMC. Neither the TRS government extended any relief to the affected people, nor MIM leadership took any measures to help them. Now they are also blocking the relief works being done by the Opposition parties and other NGOs," Shabbir Ali alleged while citing the example of Ilyas Shamshi, an activist, who was brutally attacked in Tolichowki recently. Shabbir Ali said that

- Cong workers distributed blankets, food and financial assistance to flood-hit people in Malakpet
- Meanwhile, MIM MLA Ahmed Balala, along with a gang of followers tried to stop the distribution of relief.
- Clash averted with the intervention of police

several areas in the Old City got submerged for the first ever due to the encroachment on lakes and catchment areas by the MIM leaders. "Many areas like Baba Nagar in Chandrayangutta faced inundation for the first time in history as local MIM leaders left no space for storm water to exit the areas. Thousands of families have lost everything due to the submergence of their homes in flood waters. Instead of helping those families, MIM leaders are now targeting the Congress leaders and other NGOs who are trying to help the victims," he said.

He said that the Congress party would not get intimidated by such threats. He said that the MIM might be having an army of anti-social elements and rowdies. But Congress leaders would continue to work for the people's welfare. He asked the Congress leaders to continue the relief operations without any fear.

NIA files charge sheet against 12 human traffickers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed charge sheet against 12 persons for indulging in international human trafficking.

The case against these persons was initially registered at Pahadishareef police station after the arrest of 10 human traffickers from two brothels at Jalpally village and Mahmood colony in Balapur.

Four young Bangladeshi girls were rescued from the brothels and several digital devices, fake Indian identity documents, and other incriminating materials were seized by the Rachakonda police. Later on the charge sheet was filed before the Special Court for NIA cases at Hyderabad.

According to NIA officials,

The accused would lure girls from Bangladesh and traffick them to various parts of India and throw them in prostitution

one Abdul Barik Shaik of Bangladesh, who is currently absconding, along with Ruhul Amin Dhali of West Bengal, Asad Hasan and Shareeful Shaik of Maharashtra, and eight Bangladeshis Md. Yousuf Khan, Bithi Begum, Md. Rana Hussain, Mohammed Al Mamun, Sojib Shaik, Suresh Kumar Das, Md. Abdulla Munshi, and Md. Ayub Shaik are charged under various sections of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 and the Foreigners Act 1946, in the NIA special court at

Hyderabad.

The officials of NIA said the 10 arrested persons were associates of Ruhul Amin Dhali and Abdul Barik Sheikh who illegally trafficked young girls from Bangladesh to India and vice versa. Ruhul was already arrested in another case wherein he and other 10 accused had illegally entered India in the 1980s and established a prostitution racket along with Yusuf Khan and Bithi Begum, the husband and wife duo, in various parts of India. But the astonishing fact

is that he was operating the entire syndicate from prison, said the NIA officials.

The officials further added that "the accused hatched a criminal conspiracy along with their associates to look for young Bangladeshi girls between the ages 19 and 25 years and traffic them to India by crossing the Sonai river and via Kolkata and then take them to various destinations in India, including Mumbai and Hyderabad. They lured girls with the promise of lucrative jobs and better quality of life in India. They were also provided fake Indian identity documents and eventually forced into prostitution. The rescued girls were sent to shelter homes in Hyderabad and the accused persons sent to judicial custody."

CULLING OF MAD DOGS OF KASHMIR INEVITABLE!

DR H C UPADHYAY

The habitual offenders and avowed traitors are at it again. Soon after coming out from the over a year-long incarceration, the mad dogs of Kashmir have in an orchestrated manner begun to bark at India and made their intentions loud and clear that their trimmed tails can never be strengthened.

Their history speaks volumes for such a conclusion. The progeny of ace traitor of yester years, Farooq Abdullah and his son Omer Abdullah have been following the suicidal path at their own cost. Similarly, Mehbooba Mufti, daughter of the well-known separatist late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who, while occupying the august post of the Home Minister at the Centre had stage-managed the kidnap drama of his another daughter and others, too has been following the footprints of her father.

Just a day before the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution was announced, this criminal anti-national gang had made its resolve clear that it would foment insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and will not allow its integration into the Union of India. This resolve touted as Gupkar Declaration by seven parties including the Congress has now been renewed. Now, it is the Constitutional duty of the government to ensure that this gang does not get any chance for its implementation.

It is beyond any doubt that these die-hard criminals with the open support of Pakistan, China and other fanatic Is-

lamic countries have begun hobnobbing with and conspiring against the lawfully elected government of India. Frooq Abdullah in his recent utterances has gone to the extent of seeking help not only from Pakistan but also from China to 'liberate' J&K from India. His secessionist statement comes at a time when Indo-China relations are at the lowest ebb and militaries of both the countries are at logger heads. In such a situation, no government worth its salt should tolerate any anti-national utterances that would have demoralising effect on its forces.

Clearly, Abdullah-Mufti gang with the active support of the crest-fallen other opposition parties has been trying to fish in the troubled waters. Such elements undoubtedly deserve no sympathy and must be taught a fitting lesson by the executive of the country. The mad dogs deserve to be culled in the interest of the nation.

A governor is not a dancing doll

The storm in a tea cup over a letter addressed by the onstitutional head of the Maharashtra has left the concerned citizens baffled. The Governor of Maharashtra in his letter addressed to the State government had expressed the opinion that the places of worship should be opened just as bars, theatres, restaurants and other public places are opened. Incidentally, the said letter was addressed at a time when the priests of Shirdi Sai Baba Temple were staging dharna for getting the temple opened



LEGAL CIRCLES

since it has remained closed for the last 6 months.

This situation has brought the gubernatorial post into the firing range of the opposition parties and other critics to the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre. While some feel that the Governor has to keep mum at all the times and act only when there is any constitutional crisis such as the government losing the majority support etc. However, the Constitution of India does not envisage such a position of the Governor. Article 163(2) reads as under "If any question arises whether is or is not a matter as respect to which the governor is by or under this constitution required to act in his discretion, the decision of the Governor in his discretion shall be final, and the validity of any-

thing done by the Governor shall not be called in question on the ground that he ought or ought not to have acted in his discretion." In other words, the constitution forbids any questioning about the discretionary acts of the Governor.

There are a number of judicial pronouncements made by the High Courts and the apex court on this subject. Still driven by the political considerations, the Governors are made the scapegoats by the politicians. Be it the case of the Governor of Maharashtra, West Bengal or the Lieutenant Governor of Pudicherry, they are abused and insulted by the ruling parties of the States if they refused to dance to their tunes.

Obviously, such a situation goes against the spirit of the constitution and anybody taking the Governor to the task

under one pretext or the other should be sent home lock, stock and barrel.

Method must, even in madness

The ongoing tussle between the government of Andhra Pradesh and the State High court has now spread its tentacles to the Supreme Court of India. And what is more, it has also taken within its grip perhaps the next to be the Chief Justice of India, Justice NV Ramana. The complaint signed by none other than the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, who himself is a prime accused in several cases filed by the CBI and ED, contains serious allegations of corruption, nepotism, incompetence and sexual harassment against some judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh/Telangana. The complaint also targets the senior judge of the apex court Justice NV. Ramana making serious allegations on the judicial matters of the State. Whether the said complaint has any merit or as alleged contains any truth is a separate matter. But what is more disturbing is the way in which it has been conveyed. The said complaint and annexure thereto have been released to the media by the advisor to the Chief Minister.

Indeed this is highly objectionable. It is, indeed, strange that bandwagon of the so-called 'protectors of the majesty of courts and the rule of law' including so-called intellectuals and the so-called associations of lawyers claiming representative status of 'all India' lawyers, who within a blink of the eye rose in

unison to save the condemned prisoners, known terrorists, anti-nationals and avowed contemnors of the courts, have maintained stoic silence over this issue. In fact, by their baffling behaviour they stand exposed.

Considering the scheme of the constitution, the conduct of judges cannot be a subject matter of discussion or debate even in the legislatures. However, there have been some instances in the past when some Chief Ministers ventured to complaint against the judges of the High Court including the Chief Justice. A case in sight is of the former Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh, D Sanjivayya, who had complained against the then Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh, P Chandra Reddy and some other judges of the High Court. In that case, the Chief Minister had addressed a letter dt. 04-11-1961 marked as 'secret' to Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was the Home Minister of India. Earlier, the Chief Minister had also met the Home Minister personally in Delhi and registered his protest against the then Chief Justice of the State High Court and his coterie. Nothing was made public then.

We think this is the proper way of voicing the grievances against the people in high positions by the people in high positions. Washing dirty linen in public by any body, including the chief ministers, judges of the courts and other dignitaries is not permissible under the Constitution of India and any body violating the law of the land must be given stringent punishment irrespective of his status or position.

Flood flow continues to Sagar, Musi projects

Nalgonda: The flood flow has been continuing to Nagarjuna Sagar, Pulichintala and Musi projects in the erstwhile Nalgonda district.

According to official sources, 5,38,467 cusecs of water from Nagarjuna Sagar project was being released to downstream by lifting 18 crest gates to 20 feet. Sagar reservoir is getting an inflow of 5,38,467 cusecs from upper stream.

The present water level in Sagar reservoir is

309.3558 TMCs at 589.10 feet against the full reservoir capacity of 312.0450 TMCs at 590 feet.

The officials of Pulichintala project also releasing 5.62 lakh cusecs of water to downstream from the dam by lifting 17 gates at a height of 5 meters as the reservoir is getting an inflow of 5.62 lakh cusecs of water from both Nagarjuna Sagar and Musi projects. The present water level of in the reservoir is 43,1097 TMCs at 173.259 feet

against the full capacity of 45.77 TMCs at 175 feet.

Meanwhile, flood flow is continuing to the second biggest irrigation project in the erstwhile Nalgonda district - Musi - as rains restricted in the State capital of Hyderabad. The officials of Musi project are releasing 59,941 cusecs of water to downstream by lifting nine gates. Present water level of Musi reservoir is at 642.90 feet, whereas the inflow to the reservoir was recorded as 38715 cusecs.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The State government cleared the decks for 258 engineering colleges to start new undergraduate courses from the current academic year. A government order, late on Saturday accorded permission to the JNTU-H to give affiliation to the engineering colleges to launch new courses from the academic year 2020-21.

Accordingly, 258 colleges have submitted proposals to start Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science, Computer

- A total of 258 engineering colleges affiliated to JNTU to offer 18, 210 seats
- Students can choose new courses in AI & ML, Data Science, IoT, Cyber Security among others this academic year itself

Science and Business Systems, Networks and Cyber Security in B Tech course. Following this, a total of 18,210 an intake of seats into the new courses will be available for the students to opt from the current academic year.



FERGUSON STARS AS KKR BEAT SRH IN SUPER OVER

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson on Sunday was the star as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) beat SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a Super Over at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. This was the third time this season that a match had to be decided with a Super Over but Ferguson ended up making it a farce as he took both of SRH's wickets for just two runs in three balls.

KKR captain Eoin Morgan and Dinesh Karthik, who combined to score 58 runs in the last five overs to take their team to 163/5 earlier in the day, knocked off the required three runs in four balls.

Ferguson earlier brought KKR back into the game after the powerplay with figures of 3/15 in four overs. He broke the opening partnership of 68 runs between his New Zealand team mate Kane Williamson and Jonny Bairstow by dismissing the former while he was on 29. He then bowled out Priyam Garg and Manish Pandey,



the latter with an inch perfect yorker aimed at ther base of the off stump.

SRH captain David Warner, who came at no.4 instead of his usual opening position, struggled to get going for most of the innings but smashed three consecutive fours in the last over to

| IPL STANDINGS | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|----|--------|--|
| TEAM | M | W | L | PT | NRR | |
| DC | 9 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 0.921 | |
| MI | 8 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 1.353 | |
| RCB | 9 | 6 | 3 | 12 | -0.096 | |
| KKR | 9 | 5 | 4 | 10 | -0.607 | |
| SRH | 9 | 3 | 6 | 6 | +0.008 | |
| CSK | 9 | 3 | 6 | 6 | -0.386 | |
| RR | 9 | 3 | 6 | 6 | -0.778 | |
| KKIP | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | -0.295 | |

TODAY'S MATCH
Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals at 7.30pm

Morgan 34; Thangarasu Natarajan 2/40) vs SRH 163/6 in 20 overs (David Warner 47 not out, Jonny Bairstow 36; Lockie Ferguson 3/15).

Narine taken off IPL's suspected bowling action warning list

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) spinner Sunil Narine, who was reported and warned for suspect action after the match against Kings XI Punjab (KKIP) on October 10, has been cleared by the Suspect Bowling Action Committee in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Though KKR won that match against KKIP by two runs at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Narine, who bowled the last over, was placed on the IPL warning list.

After that, KKR requested for an official assessment of Narine's action from the IPL Suspect Bowling Action Committee, submitting action footage in slow motion with back and side angles.

As reported by IANS earlier, a video analyst's footage instead of a 3D biomechanical test was used by the committee to find fault in his action. Because of Covid-19, the BCCI waived off a re-

quirement for 3D biomechanical test, usually a necessity with the official assessment. "The committee carefully reviewed all the deliveries of action footage sent of Narine with the naked eye and has come to the conclusion that the elbow-bend appears to be within the range of permissible limits," IPL stated in a media release on Sunday.

"The committee also noted that Narine should reproduce the same action going forward in the IPL 2020 matches as presented to the committee in the video footage," the release added.

It should be noted that there was no Suspect Bowling Action Committee before this incident or if there was, no mention of it was made any-



where. Interestingly, while the board mentioned that Narine has been cleared, it did not mention who all comprised the committee.

The 32-year-old was reported for suspect action back in 2014 too while playing for KKR during the now-scrapped Champions League T20 tournament.



I-League CEO lauds 'medical staff' for smooth conduct of Qualifiers

Kolkata (IANS): A day prior to the conclusion of the I-League Qualifiers 2020 and with just one round of matches to go, the final round of tests for Covid-19 have already been completed by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The tournament has been the first-ever action across all sports in India since the Covid-19 lockdown.

A number of strict protocols and health regulations were put in place in the Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) for the tournament.

As per the SOPs, every individual had to spend four days in quarantine once they entered the bio-secure bubble that was created for all the teams and officials, with a test being done on the third day of quarantine. After that, these individuals would be tested every 5-6 days.

Starting from September 16, more than 1,200 tests have been conducted on everyone in and around the tournament. A number of extra precautions were also taken during the course of the tournament. The vitals of every team member were taken on a regular basis.

League CEO Sunando Dhar applauded the medical staff who have "helped in the smooth conduct of the tournament".

"Our top priority was always the safety of the players and officials who are involved in the tournament. The fact that we have had over 1,200 tests in a month to ensure that the bubble was maintained in a proper manner," stated Dhar as per i-league.org.

"I also need to applaud all the frontline medical safety workers who helped up run this tournament so smoothly. This would not have been possible without them," he added.

IPL: Families by their side, Mumbai Indians players appear unstoppable

Dubai (IANS): Mumbai Indians are a rare team that have kept the players with their families even as the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is being played during Covid-19 in a bio-buddle in the United Arab Emirates.

While many other franchises are making do with telecommunication applications to keep players in touch with their families, Mumbai have flown families to be with players.

All-rounder Krunal Pandya feels it has been of great help to them especially on such long tours.

"It has been a great help for us, our family travelling with us. We play high pressure game every other day. When you come back from it, you keep discussing the games with players and that is not easy. With families you can switch on and switch off from the game," said Krunal while speaking to the media in India via Zoom.

The left-arm spinner is lucky otherwise with his brother Hardik in the same Mumbai In-



dians line-up.

In a video released by the Mumbai Indians, Rohit Sharma explained his routine on match-day ahead of a game.

"After breakfast, I spend time with my wife and we play with our daughter. This has been my routine this year. Last year my daughter was very young, so she

was not with me most of the time. But now the routine is very similar to what it was during the lockdown. We were together as a family," he said.

Mumbai Indians, the defending champions, are currently placed at the second spot in the points table with 12 points from eight matches.

Finch spotted vaping during IPL match between RCB & RR

Dubai (IANS): Australia batsman Aaron Finch was spotted vaping during the 33rd IPL 2020 match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals which the Virat Kohli-led side won in a thrilling manner by seven wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

During the final over of the match on Saturday when RCB required 10 runs off the final six balls during their chase of 178, cameras panned towards the RCB dressing room to capture the tension on the players' faces.

It was then that Finch was

spotted vaping as he exhaled smoke using probably an e-cigarette.

The video of the incident went viral on social media and drew contrasting reactions from the fans. Some of the social media users even queried posting about IPL rules and regulations in the dressing rooms. "IPL is it legal to #vape inside the dressing rooms? What say Aaron Finch? Royal Challengers Bangalore, do you have anything to say? Virat Kohli was just standing ahead of Finch, I am sure he can vouch for what I saw!" tweeted one of the users.

PCB 'disturbed and disappointed' as 9 players breach bio-secure protocols

Lahore (IANS): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has been left "disturbed and disappointed" after 12 persons, including nine players and three officials of the ongoing National T20 Cup in Rawalpindi, breached the bio-secure protocols in place for the Covid-19 pandemic.

Though the PCB did not disclose the identity of the cricketers and officials who breached the protocols, Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn' said that the guilty included senior players like Mohammad Hafeez, Kamran Akmal, Fakhar Zaman, Yasir Shah, Khurram Manzoor, Sohail Khan, Anwar Ali, Imam-ul-Haq plus officials Abdul Raz-

ISL: Mumbai City FC sign defender Mourtada Fall

Mumbai (IANS): Mumbai City FC on Sunday announced the signing of defender Mourtada Fall ahead of the seventh edition of the Indian Super League (ISL). The Senegalese defender will represent the Islanders after signing a two-year contract with the club.

The 32-year-old centre-half started his playing career with Moghreb Tetouan, featuring for the Moroccan club over three spells, during which he also won the Botola Pro 1 in 2011-12. In the second of his three stints with Moghreb in 2014-15, Fall featured under then coach Sergio Lobera. Ahead of the 2018-19 season, Fall linked up with his former coach Lobera and made the switch to the Indian Super League with FC Goa.

Since then, Fall has proven to be one of the top defenders in the division, winning the 2019 Super Cup and the 2019/20 ISL League Shield. Fall has also scored 9 goals and provided 3 assists in 43 appearances over two seasons, earning the tag of a goal-scoring defender.



Real, Barca both lose as La Liga returns to action

Madrid (IANS): Cadiz striker 'Choco' Lozano made history with his 16th minute goal to give the recently-promoted side their first-ever away win against Real Madrid and hand the reigning champions their first defeat of the La Liga season.

Cadiz, who have won all three of their away games this season, had already had four decent chances before Lozano's goal and were full value for their victory against a rival that rarely threatened, although Karim Benzema did hit the bar with a dipping shot eight minutes from time, reports Xinhua news agency.

Sergio Ramos was forced out of the game in the 45th minute after hurting his knee in a collision with Lozano and could now be a doubt for his side's Champions League debut against Shakhtar Donetsk and next Saturday's 'Clasico' away to FC Barcelona.

Meanwhile, Barca also crashed to a 0-1 defeat in Getafe with Jaime Mata's sec-

ond-half penalty condemning Ronald Koeman to his first defeat as Barca coach.

Ousmane Dembele, along with new signings Pedri and Sergino Dest, all started for Barca, who controlled the first half and should have scored through Antoine Griezmann.

However, Mata converted his spot-kick which was awarded after a rash Frenkie de Jong challenge on Djene. Barca never looked like getting back into the game after that.

Djene headed against his own bar under pressure in injury-time, but Barca lacked the sharpness to break down their rivals.

Luis Suarez got back on the goal trail for Atletico Madrid as the Uruguayan opened the scoring in their 2-0 win away to Celta Vigo. Yannick Carrasco scored Atletico's second goal deep into injury-time.

Granada kept up their excellent start to the season as they ended Sevilla's unbeaten start to the campaign with a 1-0 win.

In Pant's absence, Dhawan switches to fourth gear

New Delhi (IANS): Shikhar Dhawan powered Delhi Capitals (DC) to a convincing victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Saturday night with his first century in T20 format.

While it took him 167 IPL innings to breach the three-figure mark for the first time, the longest in league's history, it took him 265 T20 innings to reach his first career century in the shortest format of the game.

Saturday's feat is important for Dhawan because there was always confusion over his role at the top of the order - whether it was to go after the bowling right from the start or play himself in and then open up.

Last year, DC coach Ricky Ponting had said in a media conference at the Feroz Shah Kotla during the league phase that Dhawan needed to increase his strike rate as Rishabh Pant, a quick-scorer, can't always succeed. This season, with Pant out injured now, Dhawan has had to raise the gears earlier over the last couple of games.

"The wicket was slow, our plan was to cash-in on the first six overs," Dhawan said in the post-match presser after Saturday's match.

Delhi Capitals had opener Prithvi Shaw in the first over but Dhawan still managed to find some boundaries.

"Unfortunately, we lost two wickets and things went a bit slow at the start. We knew we were chasing a big target then we hit (some) boundaries," he added.

With Shaw, Ajinkya Rahane gone and skipper Shreyas Iyer still finding his feet by the end of the power-play, Dhawan had done well to keep the run rate going with 24 off 16 balls. Next over, he survived a chance but hit 12 over five deliveries to keep the team going.



average scores, not able to power on. His strike rate didn't cross 130 in any of the first six games except one and he was not able to score even one half-century. A 69 off 52 balls against Mumbai Indians in the seventh game was deemed slow as Delhi Capitals couldn't build a big enough target.

However, Dhawan hit the top gear against Rajasthan Royals, smashing a 33-ball 57. "It was a conscious effort (to go after bowling in the powerplay)... it was important to score runs in the first six overs," Dhawan had said after the last game against RR.

The team could still make 161 but thanks to Anrich Nortje and their bowling, DC managed to win.

7 MoMs in 7 wins: Table toppers DC find different heroes for each game

Sharjah (IANS): Left-handed Shikhar Dhawan on Saturday became the seventh Delhi Capitals player to earn a man of the match award in the team's seventh victory, indicating that the table-toppers have not depended on performances of just one player in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The left-handed opening batsman cracked a 58-ball unbeaten 101 to lead the team to a successful chase of 180 during their game against Chennai Super Kings.

In the previous game against Rajasthan Royals (RR), Anrich Nortje produced a sizzling spell in which he bowled three of the fastest deliveries in IPL history to spread fear in the RR line-up for which he won the Man of the Match award.

Nortje had spoken about the team's collective performance after the previous man of the match performance, saying, "We know when to step it up and know when to relax. It's a good balance that the team has at the moment."

Ravichandran Ashwin won the award against RR (2/22), Axar Patel vs RCB (2/18), Shreyas Iyer vs KKR (38-ball 88), Prithvi Shaw vs CSK (43-ball 64) while Marcus Stoinis won it against Punjab for his 21-ball 53 and two wickets.

