



# THE HANS INDIA

• Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 •

• Follow @ /thehansindia | /thehansindiaweb | /thehansindia | /thehansindia | /thehansindia •



## NATION

**India thrashed, so what if I was pushed: Rahul**



**Amritsar:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said when the whole country was being thrashed, it was not a big deal that he got pushed a little while en route to meet the Hathras victim's family. **► Report: P3**

## BUSINESS

**Services sector output stabilises during Sept**



**New Delhi:** Indian service sector output broadly stabilised in September but remained in the contraction zone as incoming new business fell moderately due to the damaging impact of the pandemic on demand, leading to more job losses, a monthly survey said on Tuesday. **► Report: P6**

## SPORTS

**Djokovic, Tsitsipas advance to quarters**



**Paris (IANS):** World number one Novak Djokovic has entered the quarterfinals of the French Open, defeating 15th seed Karen Khachanov of Russia in his fourth-round contest. On Monday, Djokovic defeated 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 over the Russian 15th seed in a match that lasted for two hours and 23 minutes on Court Philippe-Chatrier. **► Report: P8**



# River boards to resolve water usage of AP, TS

**KCR agrees to withdraw Krishna river water case in SC**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** As both the Telugu states -- Telangana and Andhra Pradesh -- stuck to their guns at the Apex Council meeting presided over by Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday, the Union Minister assured both the Chief Ministers that only the river boards would take decisions on the utilisation of waters and not the Centre per se.

Following the assurance given by the Centre that it would address the long-pending water-sharing dispute between the two states, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao agreed to withdraw the case pertaining to the allocation of water from river Krishna, which is pending before the Supreme Court. This would enable the Centre to move forward in referring the water-sharing issues to the Tribunal under Section 3 of the IS-RWD Act 1956.

The Union Minister told the two Chief Ministers that the Centre has decided to notify the jurisdiction of the Krishna River

Management Board and Godavari River Management Board. KCR expressed his opposition to the decision. However, Shekhawat said the CMs of the two states agreed to set up new Tribunals to resolve the water-sharing issues permanently. He said during the two-hour meeting, four important issues mentioned in the agenda were discussed.

With regard to the sharing of river Godavari water, KCR informed the Union minister that he would send a request to the Centre to take appropriate decision to constitute a Tribunal. Shekhawat said both the states were asked to send their requests to resolve the Godavari water-sharing issue. The AP CM is yet to respond positively.

As per the AP Reorganization Act 2014, the long-pending shifting of KRMB head office to Andhra from Hyderabad was also resolved in the meeting. Soon it will be shifted to AP. Shekhawat said that the two CMs also agreed to submit the DPRs of all the projects taken up by the two states. He also assured



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat addresses a press conference after the Apex Council meeting on Krishna and Godavari water sharing issue with Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, in New Delhi on Tuesday

**GENERAL CONSENSUS AT APEX MEET, SAYS UNION MINISTER**

that the technical appraisal of all the projects will be done in a short time.

The minister clarified that all projects that have water allocations from KWDI-1 can be deemed as old projects. Both states should submit DPRs for old projects which do not

have water allocations from the Tribunal or have changes made in the designs after the bifurcation of the state.

The Union minister assured the Telangana CM that a mechanism will be worked out for sharing of 45 TMC of Godavari water diverted by Andhra

Pradesh under Polavaram. Since both states complained against each other on Kaleshwaram and Polavaram, the Centre has suggested the CMs to address Godavari water disputes by mutual agreement between the states or the new Tribunal will decide on it.



## 3 share Nobel Physics prize for discoveries about black hole

**Stockholm (IANS):** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on Tuesday decided to award the Nobel Prize in physics to Oxford University professor Roger Penrose, German scientist Reinhard Genzel and American physicist Andrea Ghez for their discoveries about black hole.

The prize amount is 10 million Swedish kronor (approximately \$1.12 million), with one half going to Penrose and the other half jointly to Genzel and Ghez.

"The discoveries of this year's Laureates have broken new ground in the study of compact and supermassive objects. But these exotic objects still pose many questions that beg for answers and motivate future research," David Haviland, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, said in a statement.

"Not only questions about their inner structure, but also questions about how to test our theory of gravity under

the extreme conditions in the immediate vicinity of a black hole." UK-born Penrose showed that Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity leads to the formation of black holes.

Born in Germany, Genzel is a Director at Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Garching, Germany and Professor at University of California, Berkeley, US.

Ghez, who was born in New York, is a Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, US. Genzel and Ghez discovered that an invisible and extremely heavy object governs the orbits of stars at the centre of our galaxy.

A supermassive black hole is the only currently known explanation.

Penrose used ingenious mathematical methods in his proof that black holes are a direct consequence of Einstein's general theory of relativity.

Continued on Page 5

## Delhi past peak of second Covid-19 wave: CM Kejriwal

**New Delhi (PTI):** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said the national capital is past the peak of the second wave of corona virus and the situation has been controlled to a large extent.

Kejriwal said the Delhi government increased the testing exponentially to detect the infection. "Delhi hit the peak of the second wave of COVID-19 on September 17 when 4,500 cases were reported across the city. The situation has been controlled to a large extent," he said. "I hope the second wave will slowly pass," Kejriwal said.

Testing in Delhi hit the 60,000 a day mark in September compared to

20,000 tests per day in August. The chief minister also said that 10,000 beds are now unoccupied in hospitals.

At one point, 7,200 beds were occupied. According to Delhi government data,

1,947 new cases on Monday increased the cumulative count to 2,92,560 cases, while 32 fatalities took the number of deaths to 5,542.

Forty-eight deaths were reported on September 29, the highest in a day since July 16, when the city reported 58 deaths. On Monday, the case positivity rate was 5.47 per cent, while the cumulative positivity rate was 8.82 per cent. The average death rate for the last 10 days stands at 1.41 per cent.



## 'Horrible, shocking, extraordinary,' CJI terms Hathras case

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Supreme Court on Tuesday termed the Hathras incident horrible, shocking and extraordinary as it sought an affidavit from the Uttar Pradesh government on three aspects: how the family and witnesses are being protected; has the family chosen a lawyer to assist them in the matter and what is the scope of the Allahabad High Court proceedings and how could it widen its scope. A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said

the court will ensure the investigations into the matter is smooth.

"The incident is horrible, shocking... We are hearing you as the incident is extraordinary," said Chief Justice to senior advocate Indira Jaising, representing an intervenor in the matter.

Jaising submitted before the bench that she does not want to interfere with the investigation and insisted on the transfer of the case from one state to another. She also cited

that 27 FIRs have been lodged against several protesters in the matter and emphasised on providing witness protection.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Uttar Pradesh government, submitted that outside the courts, several narratives were being weaved, and this could come to an end by a monitoring and investigation by a central agency.

Mehta reiterated that the family has already been given police protection. "Things are

being argued in the court without knowing the facts. Witnesses are being protected," said Mehta.

After a detailed hearing in the matter, the top court issued notices and adjourned it to next week for the state to file another affidavit on the three aspects.

The remarks from the top court were made during the hearing of a PIL filed by a social activist seeking CBI or SIT probe in the Hathras incident in which a 19-year-old Dalit

teenager was allegedly gang raped by upper caste men and then reportedly dragged by the neck with her dupatta on a field in Bulghari village. The victim was partially paralysed and died after battling for 14 days. She was shifted from Aligarh hospital to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on September 28. She died on September 29 and was cremated at 3 am on September 30. The family has alleged coercion regarding the time and manner in which the cremation took place.

## Trump discharged from hospital after 4 days, returns to White House

**Washington (PTI):** US President Donald Trump has returned to the White House after being discharged from a military hospital where he was under treatment for the deadly corona virus since Friday, telling his followers that he would be back on the campaign trail soon, and not to be "afraid" of the disease and not let it "dominate" their lives.

Trump, 74, who appeared to be healthy, waved at reporters on Monday. In an unusual move, Trump climbed up the South Portico stairs instead of the elevators to go to his residence, showing his fitness.



The president removed his mask on the balcony of the White House, where several staff and aides have tested positive for the virus in recent days.

Earlier, he was discharged from the Walter Reed National Medical Center after doctors found him fit enough to go back home. "Will be back on the

**Don removes mask promptly after return to White House**

After President Donald Trump returned to the White House just days after starting corona virus treatment at Walter Reed medical center, he removed his mask for a photo-op despite rising cases among White House staffers

Campaign Trail soon!!! The Fake News only shows the Fake Polls," Trump said in a tweet, moments before leaving Walter Reed National Medical Center in

Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of Washington DC.

In a mass email to his supporters after his arrival at the White House, Trump asked them not to be afraid of COVID-19. The US is the worst hit nation and has some 7.4 million cases of Covid-19 and 210,000 deaths. "I'm telling you: Don't be afraid of COVID. Don't let it dominate your life! This is the greatest country in the world and under the Trump Administration, we have developed some really great drugs and knowledge. WE WILL BEAT THIS, TOGETHER!" he said.

## Trump's spokesperson latest in inner circle to test Covid positive

**New York (IANS):** US President Donald Trump's spokesperson Kayleigh McEnany on Monday became the latest person in his inner circle to test positive for Covid-19.

McEnany tweeted that she tested positive in the morning while showing no symptoms but had been negative in the earlier tests conducted since Thursday when Trump's Counsellor Hope Hicks had been diag-



nosed with corona virus. Several people close to Trump have been diagnosed with Covid-19, including his campaign man-

ager Bill Stepien, Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel, adviser Kellyanne Conway and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

Trump's wife Melania has also tested positive for the virus. Attorney General William Barr has announced that he is self-quarantining because of possible exposure to coronavirus despite test reports returning negative.



# Womenia

## Getting back together after a break-up

Looking to get back with your boyfriend or girlfriend can be admirable if done for the right reasons. If you feel like they could be the one or if you can envision a future in which you can both be happy together then you are right to fight to try to make things work.

Here are a few tips that can enable you to get back together for good.

### Don't rush after your breakup

One of the first reflexes a person has when they're going through a breakup is simple; to want to go too fast and to go overboard. You want to share your feelings, you want to show your ex how much you care, and you think that everything will be fixed like this. Unfortunately, this isn't the case at all. Focus on yourself, figure out the reasons behind your breakup, figure out what changes need to be made, how to show your ex that you've grown and improved, and that you can provide

solutions that will make things right. To make sure you do this right, you have to take the time to think and to not move forward blindly. I know that your world feels like it's been turned upside down, that your morale isn't at its best but you have to make this effort if you want things to change.

### Understand what went wrong to get back together

In order to progress and not repeat the same mistakes it is always necessary to look back at what went wrong and why. If you don't really take the time to understand his or her perspective and empathize with them to some degree, it will be very difficult to get him or her to lower their guards and to openly talk to you. A breakup never happens without reason and subsequently bitterness, incomprehension or different desires can still exist between you and your ex. These things need to be fixed so that you don't have to deal with bad memories that will resurface and threaten your new relationship together. Remember that getting back with your ex is only half of the battle;



staying together and overcoming past frustrations will be the true test of your relationship. People fail to realise and incorporate this simple but powerful reality and that's why it's common to see couples break up and get back together three, four or even five times before finally breaking up for good.

### Start a new relationship free from past wrongdoings

remember you need to start a new relationship free from past wrongdoings and not just simply get back together. If you are merely just back together it implies that you are in the same mindset as you previously were;

you will thus face the same issues over and over again which will inevitably lead to yet another break up as discussed previously. It will be necessary for you to really prove your change over time through your habits and the way that you communicate. Once you understand where you went wrong and work to become better on your own, you will start to feel empowered and develop a feeling of inner peace and be secure. That's how it will be possible for you to shift to a more positive mindset, one in which you will be able to once again seduce your ex but also develop a sense of compassion in their regard.

TWEET PATROL

**SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA @THESHILPASHETTY**

First day #hungama on set before we roll. Sanitisation drill cause safety comes first .The new normal has taken over and how?!

#shootready #safetyfirst #outdoorshoots #teamgoals #manali #actormode #workmode #hungama2



## Natural skin tightening face masks

As we age, developing skin-related issues is natural. The skin starts becoming dry and saggy as we grow older. Skin tightening masks can be an effective solution to these skin problems. In this article, we will share a few tips and tricks to make skin tightening masks using natural ingredients.

### Banana face pack

Banana not only moisturises your skin but can also protect it from free radical damage with its antioxidant properties. This can help reduce the signs of aging. Honey and olive oil are humectants and contain antioxidants that can repair damaged skin cells. Peel and mash the banana so that

no lumps remain. Add honey and olive oil and mix well. Apply the paste all over your face and neck. Leave it on for 15 minutes and then rinse with lukewarm water. Rinse with cool water to close your pores. Use this mask once or twice a week.

### Multani mitti face pack

Fuller's earth or Multani mitti improves the skin tone and lightens blemishes, pimples, tanning, etc. It draws excess oil from the skin and stimulates blood circulation in your face. Raw milk contains lactic acid that increases the thickness and firmness of the skin. Add enough raw milk to Multani mitti powder to get a smooth paste. Apply this paste evenly on your face and neck. Let it dry naturally for 10-12 minutes. Rinse with water. Repeat this once every week. This face pack is not recommended for people allergic to dairy products. Substitute milk with rose water if you wish to try this remedy.

### Oatmeal face mask

Oatmeal is a good absorbent. It absorbs all the impurities and dirt lodged in your skin pores. It also

soothes the skin and protects it from free radical damage with its antioxidants. Research suggests that herbal face packs prepared using gram flour, green tea, and other easily available ingredients can keep the skin nourished. Grind the oats to get a grainy powder. Add gram flour, honey, and enough rose water to make a paste. Apply this pack on your face and neck and leave it on for 10 minutes. Rinse with water. Use this pack once a week.

### Castor oil face pack

It enhances collagen and elastin production, making the skin more firm, taut, soft, and smooth. Ricinoleic acid, the main component of castor oil, has anti-inflammatory properties. These properties can ease inflammation on the skin. Add either lemon juice or lavender oil to castor oil and mix well. Massage this mixture in upward circular motions on the face and neck. Keep massaging for a few minutes. Leave it on overnight. Rinse with lukewarm water first, followed by cool water. Do this once or twice a week. This remedy is not recommended for oily and sensitive skin types.

## BE CHIC AND NOT FLASHY

With the need to impress, women are looking to try newer trends and style statements. In such situations, one easily becomes the victim of flashy dressing. However one can take care of few basic guidelines to avoid such fashion faux pas. So, today we bring you eight ways on how to be chic and not flashy!

### Look for comfortable clothes

Nothing can kill your style quite as quickly as an ill-fitted shirt or too-tight pants. Even if the clothes feel comfortable, if they don't fit, don't wear them.

### Mix prints with solid colours

Mix a print with something tonal or solid colours for a winning combo and not with another eye-catching print.

### Extra fabric in a dress isn't required

There are many things in life that would classify as being a drag, but your pants shouldn't be one of them. Hem lines that flirt with the floor are fine when flared and flowy trousers are trending so much, but you've gone too far when they make contact with the floor.

### Buy boyfriend shirt, don't borrow it from boyfriend

There are some great boyfriend blazers in the market these days, but you can't literally lift a boyfriend's jacket and expect to

look chic. What the designers call a "boyfriend blazer" is actually cut to strike a very feminine figure. No matter how romantic you think it is to snuggle in your boyfriend's clothes, doing so likely gives you a sloppy appearance.

### Choose fishnet fabric carefully

If you're going to venture into the fishnet trend, you'll want to choose pieces with simple, solid fabrics and ensure that the pattern of the fishnet tights will stand out -otherwise things will get muddled, and you'll end up looking like a hot mess!

### Add some shine in your wardrobe

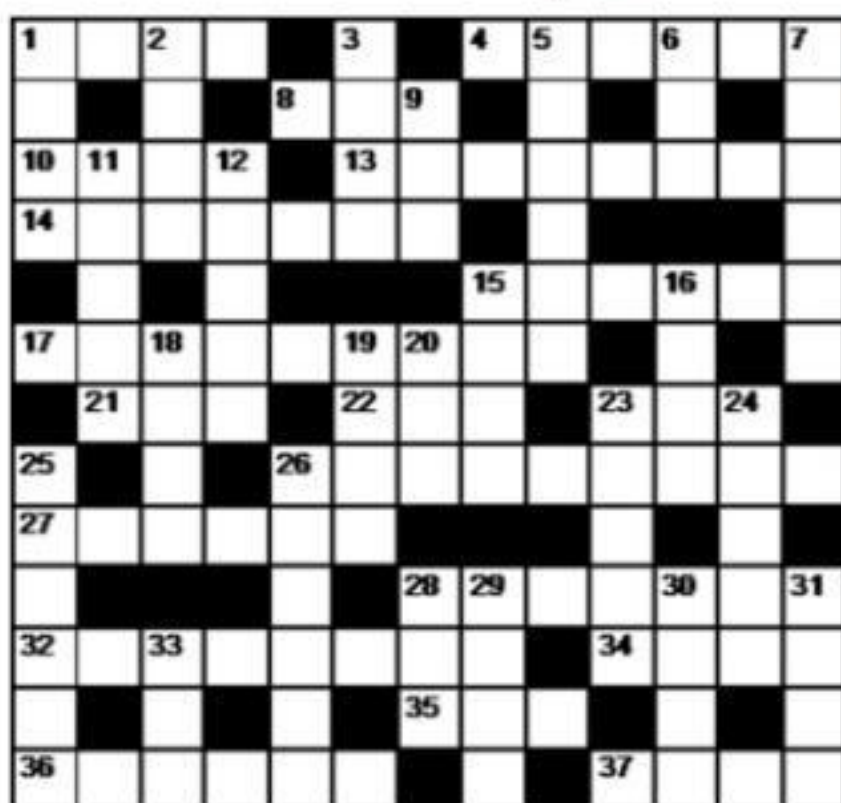
If you're not sure where to begin, the easiest way is to opt for a statement accessory with shine -a pair of glittery pumps in gold or silver or a sparkly clutch will add that magic touch to your Little black dress.

### Sequinned dress is a great option

For that stop-and-stare reaction, a fitted sequinned dress or gown is the way to go. Make sure the finishing of the garment is immaculate, and that the quality of sequins used is good.

### Go metallic

As metallics continue to reign, a gown in a metallic shade such as rose gold is a classy and fashionable choice. Another option is to pair a metallic skirt with a neutral blouse.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 6

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 The better half (4)
- 4 Locale of historic caves in Maharashtra (6)
- 8 Black bird (3)
- 10 Lyric poems (4)
- 13 Elementary particle (8)
- 14 Small bag (7)
- 15 Japanese hostess (6)
- 17 Groundless (9)
- 21 Apex (3)
- 22 Consume (3)
- 23 East Anglian city (3)
- 26 Pillaged or looted (9)
- 27 On the water (6)
- 28 Indonesian island (7)
- 32 Hurry up! (4-4)
- 34 Short examination (4)
- 35 Carton (3)
- 36 Pretentiously refined (2-2-2)
- 37 Flower part (4)

### Down

- 1 Courts (4)
- 2 Worry (4)
- 3 Leg joint (4)
- 5 Bolted (6)
- 6 Boat propeller (3)
- 7 Temper, as metal (6)
- 9 Sick (3)
- 11 Intimidate or try to cow down (5)
- 12 Exclusive story (5)
- 15 Receives or earns (4)
- 16 Fine fabric (4)
- 18 Satiated (4)
- 19 Not untidy (4)
- 20 Daniel's pet name ? (3)
- 23 Panache (5)
- 24 Periods of time (5)
- 25 French philosopher (6)
- 26 Stale, rank (6)
- 28 Weep (3)
- 29 Atop (4)
- 30 Canvas shelter (4)
- 31 Power source (4)
- 33 Long-established (3)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 6

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### Kajal Aggarwal to tie the knot on October 30

Popular actress of southern films, Kajal Aggarwal, is all set to marry entrepreneur Gautam Kitchlu on October 30 in Mumbai. The actress took to Instagram to share the news with fans in a long note she posted on Tuesday.

"I said yes", she headlined her note, which read, "It gives me immense joy to share that I am getting married to Gautam Kitchlu, on October 30, 2020 in Mumbai, in a small, private ceremony surrounded by our immediate families. This pandemic has certainly shed a sobering light on our joy, but we are thrilled to start our lives together and know that all of you will be cheering us on in spirit. I thank you for all the love you have showered upon me over the years and we seek your blessings as we embark upon this incredible new journey. I will still continue doing what I cherish the most - entertaining my audience - now, with a whole new purpose and meaning. Thank you for your unending support."

Congratulations have poured in on social media from friends, colleagues and fans. "Congratulations Kajal. Wishing you both a lifetime of happiness," Hansika Motwani commented.

"Many many congratulations love," actress Mehreen commented. Kajal is best known for her roles in "Magadheera", "Kavacham", "Arya 2", "Thuppaki", and "Paris Paris". In Bollywood, she has been seen in "Singham" and "Special 26".



# Rajasthan records highest minor sex abuse complaints during pandemic

AAKANKSHA KHAJURIA

**New Delhi (IANS):** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), which comes under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, has received as many as 800 complaints of sexual violence against minors during the pandemic, with the highest from Rajasthan, said the chairperson of the statutory body on Tuesday.

The data comes at a time when several instances of rape against minors are coming to the fore from various states, prominently Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In another gruesome incident, a six-year-old girl reportedly died in Delhi on Tuesday, 10 days after being raped in Ut-



tar Pradesh's Aligarh district.

Speaking to IANS, the panel's chairperson Priyanka Kanoongo maintained that there is no nationwide spike in such cases. "From April to September, the commission has received 835 complaints under

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, as compared to last year, when the figures were 1,600."

He further apprised that 87 complaints were received from Rajasthan, the highest so far, followed by 80 in Tamil Nadu and 72 in Telan-

gana. "The complaints from these states are more or less the same," Kanoongo added.

The chairperson of the apex child rights' body, however, rued the inadequate reporting mechanism of such cases in two states. "In West Bengal, a 16-year-old was kidnapped but the police did not add the charges of POCSO and trafficking in the FIR. In West Bengal and Bihar, the child welfare police officers are not trained and there is a lack of sensitisation."

On the contrary, recent National Crime Records Bureau data showed a significant rise in cases of crimes against children. In 2019, crimes against children went up by 4.5 per cent. A total of 1.48 lakh cases of

## Life term for four, 5-year RI for fifth

**Jaipur (IANS):** A special court for SC/ST cases sentenced four accused in the Thanagaazi gang rape case to life imprisonment on Tuesday while the fifth accused, who made the rape video viral, was awarded 5 years rigorous imprisonment.

Judge Brijesh Kumar while announcing the verdict held all five accused guilty of the crime and said that this gang rape case was more like cheerharan of Draupadi. The sentences were pronounced by a special court for hearing cases under the Scheduled Castes

and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Thanagaazi rape case in Rajasthan was reported on April 26, 2019 and grabbed nationwide attention as the men raped the woman in front of her husband, filmed the act and made the video viral.

A case was registered after the video went viral on May 2, six days after the crime. When the couple had earlier gone to lodge an FIR, they were reportedly sent back citing the busy schedule of the police due to the Lok Sabha polls.

crime against children were registered, of which 35.3 per cent cases were related to sexual offences. Unfortunately, the conviction rate remains low.

"The reason for the low conviction rate is delay but now, with the POCSO courts, the conviction rate will go up. The work is also being done to set-up specialised forensic

labs for POCSO cases. The investigation technique also needs to be high-tech, then only the conviction rate will go up," said the NCPCR chief.

# India thrashed, so what if I was pushed: Rahul

- ▶ Yogi Adityanath free to see conspiracy, says Rahul
- ▶ Hathras victim's family gets security after threats
- ▶ Forensic report says 'no rape' in Hathras case



**Amritsar:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said when the whole country was being thrashed, it was not a big deal that he got pushed a little while en route to meet the Hathras victim's family. "The real push, the unimaginable one, was given to the family (of the Hathras victim). That is why I wanted to meet them. I wanted that family to know that they are not alone. I told them I was there for the lakhs of females who are misbehaved with daily, who are raped," he added further slamming the Prime Minister's si-

lence over the issue and the attitude of the administration in Uttar Pradesh.

Rahul Gandhi said it was Adityanath's choice if he sees an "international conspiracy" in the Hathras incident but he personally sees it as a major tragedy. "Rahul said he saw a tragedy in the incident and Adityanath should also have had the decency to do so. The Department of Forensic Medicine at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College of Aligarh Muslim University, has certified that there is no evidence of rape in the case of the

## Rahul's tractor rally stopped briefly at Haryana border

**Pehowa (IANS):** In the wake of assertions by the Haryana government to not allow Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to enter the state after his tractor rally in neighbouring Punjab, he was briefly stopped on the Punjab-Haryana border but was later allowed to enter after heated arguments between the party workers and the police. "They have stopped us on a bridge on the Haryana border. I'm not moving and am happy to wait here. 1 hour, 5 hours, 24 hours, 100 hours, 1,000 hours or 5,000 hours," Rahul tweeted. The Congress' tractor rally -- which the party held in Punjab from Sunday onwards -- entered Haryana from the Pehowa border. Rahul claimed on Tuesday that the new farm laws will end up destroying the MSP and PDS systems for the poor. "The danger is real and cannot be negated just because Modi and Company are making fun of me," he said. Rejecting the suggestion that the Central government was able to take unilateral decisions because of a weak opposition, Rahul said, "Give me free Press and other key institutions and this (Narendra Modi) government will not last long".

"Give me free Press and other key institutions and the Modi government will not last long"



19-year-old Dalit victim in the Hathras case. The Yogi Adityanath government has deployed round-the-clock security outside the house of the Hathras victim. Hathras Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal said that two women sub-inspectors and six

women constables have been stationed at the victim's house. Meanwhile, in a video that has gone viral on social media, some upper caste men can be heard threatening the victim's family and defending the four men arrested for the crime.

## ₹8,000 crore cushion for Modi

**Patiala/New Delhi(IANS):** Rahul Gandhi was trolled by the BJP for using a cushion while riding a tractor on the third day of his tractor rally in Punjab on Tuesday. But the former Congress president countered the trolls for not asking questions about the Prime Minister's recently refurbished aircraft. Rahul hit back saying "no question will be asked why PM Narendra Modi bought planes for Rs 8,000 crore" and there are no cushions in the plane but beds ("Ek nahi 50 palang hain usme"). "Nobody says that Modi bought planes because his friend Trump has planes and he also wanted it," said Rahul. Rahul was mentioning two Boeing B777 aircraft, which have been specially retrofitted with the latest self-defence protection suite for VVIP transport duties, which landed at the IGI Airport last week. The aircraft, which were originally owned by Air India, will now be handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF), which will use it to ferry the Prime Minister, the President and the Vice President.

## DRESS REHEARSAL



Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran aerobatics display team performs during the full dress rehearsal for the 88th Indian Air Force Day celebrations, at Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad.

## Sanskriti University celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

**New Delhi:** Sanskriti University celebrated the 10th Foundation Program - 2020 on Zoom platform with full zeal and enthusiasm. Arun Singh (Member of Parliament & National General Secretary of BJP) was the Chief Guest of the 10th Foundation Day in the gracious presence of Ram Kailash Gupta (Chairman), Rajesh Gupta (Pro Chancellor), Mukesh Gupta (Chairman, Vision Institute of Advanced Studies), Ashok Chakradhar (Author & Poet), Arun (Author poet), Chirag Jain (author poet), and Patricio from TQS



Chile. The Foundation Day 2020 started with a welcome message by Dr. Rana Singh Vice-Chancellor where he extended a warm welcome to all the new students by wishing

them good luck for their new journey on behalf of Sanskriti University. Sachin Gupta (Chancellor) thanked everyone and said "It is a matter of great pride for everyone who has been part of the journey. Today we want to thank everyone who has started the journey and shared it with us and made this day possible. Our students know how to face every challenge and how to overcome it. We are facing this pandemic together and not letting it affect our education with the help of technology."

## Responsible Mining. Sustainable Growth.

### CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

### 62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**I have a positive update on the latest developments related to Donimalai mine....**

While stepping into Q3 of FY21, we are closer to resuming our mining operations at Donimalai. As most of you are aware, our company has been in discussions with both Government of Karnataka and Government of India on Donimalai Mine lease extension to resolve certain unviable terms in the lease agreement. On 15<sup>th</sup> of this month the Karnataka Cabinet has cleared our application to start mining operations at Donimalai. This is indeed a positive culmination of the dialogue between our

company, Government of Karnataka and Government of India. However, the actual resumption of mining operations in Donimalai mines is expected to be started in the month of October, 2020 which will add production of 5-6 lakh tonnes/month.

**Our external Scenario continues to be challenging yet opportunities are clearly visible in the horizon .....**

Our operating environment consists of iron ore production and demand from the steel industry. India is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest iron ore producer in the world. India's iron ore production is estimated to have risen by 17.8% in FY20, to reach 245.4 MT, owing to the acceleration in mine production from 208.3 MT. However, production in FY21 is expected to come down significantly owing to delays in operationalization of auctioned mines in Odisha on account of the COVID-19. Steel industry and its associated mining and metallurgy sectors have seen major investments and developments in the recent past. According to the data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Indian metallurgical industries attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the tune of US\$ 13.40 billion in the period April 2020 - March 2020. The growth in the Indian steel sector has been driven by domestic availability of raw material such as iron ore and skilled labour. Consequently, the steel sector has been a major contributor to India's manufacturing output.

Steel has contributed immensely towards India's economic growth. This is evident from the similar growth patterns of India's GDP and steel production in the country, which also highlights the economy's dependence on steel. National consumption of finished steel rose from 6.5 MT in 1968 to 101 MT in 2018, while GDP grew from USD 0.25 trillion in 1968 to USD 2.94 trillion today. Steel-making capacity is expected to reach 300 million tonnes per annum by 2030-31. Crude Steel production is expected to touch 255 MTPA by 2030-31 from 142 MPTA in FY18-19. As a result, per capita steel consumption is expected to rise 160 KG from the current 74.1 KG. This growth will be predominantly fuelled by the increasing consumption in the construction & infrastructure sector and capital goods.

To make these projected steel consumption growth a reality, India's iron ore production needs to increase simultaneously.

In March 2019, the Indian government came up with a new National Mineral Policy (NMP) that replaced the earlier 2008 Policy. NMP 2019 aims to hike mineral production by 200 per cent in seven years and increase the share of mining in India's GDP.

**Going Forward**

India's steel consumption in first 4 months of FY 2020-21 declined by 42% YoY. India's apparent steel consumption in 2019 was estimated at 101 million tonnes. However during the period steel exports increased. A drop in domestic demand,

disruption in supply chain and acute shortage of construction labour led several top steelmakers to export more than 50-60% of their sales volume during May-June period. Iron and steel recorded more than 100% growth in exports during June 2020 with shipments of \$1.32 billion against \$653.52 million in the same month last year. Finished steel production declined by 0.8% in FY20 to reach 101.3 MT, over FY19 when the production stood at 102.1 MT. While, the steel demand in the most developing economies is expected to fall in FY21, India is likely to face a larger decline in steel demand.

Though the domestic consumption is expected to be impacted in the subsequent months, demand for steel has picked up since August as normalcy is returning in the infrastructure sector. MSME and specialty steel sectors. Government's thrust on rural development is also driving the demand for steel. The trend from August 2020 shows exports of steel decreasing and the domestic demand for steel increasing. As the economy is showing signs of recovery, almost all steel plants have resumed production at an average 75-80 pc of capacity.

Against the backdrop of the increasing demand we are able to increase the domestic prices of Iron Ore for September to a 22-month high as the removal of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions boosts demand.

I am delighted to inform you that since July 2020, we have recorded a rise in overall production and sales as compared to the corresponding period in July 2019, despite the current uncertain situation due to COVID-19. Our company has been able to achieve excellent physical performance through its continual push towards higher volumes which saw production of 2.19 MT and sales of 2.57 MT that grew by 13% and 7% respectively over the corresponding period last year. Total production stood at 1.62 million tonnes (MT) in August 2020 compared to 1.41 MT in August 2019. Total sales stood at 1.79 MT in August 2020 compared to 1.49 MT in August 2019.

Further, the Board of Directors of the company has accorded in-principle approval to the proposal to demerge NMDC Iron & Steel Plant (NISPL) Nagarnar located in Chhattisgarh.

**Technology Upgradation is key enabler for making the mining operations economically competitive....**

In line with the vision plan of augmenting its production & evacuation capacity, technological upgradation, diversification & value-added products, our company has taken up many ambitious projects. Some of the projects have been completed and others are nearing completion. Details of our new projects and technology upgradation initiatives are detailed in our Annual Report.

**As I mentioned in the beginning of this address, we are a great team at NMDC.....**

We continue to progress on our Human Resource Development and Industrial relations. The human capital of NMDC has been its key asset. The company has made concerted efforts in keeping the workforce highly engaged and motivated through various training programmes. I am delighted to say that our team consisting of 5635 people are completely aligned with our vision to make the company a globally acclaimed iron ore company. We have inclusiveness based human resource development plan driving our Human potential development initiatives.

**Corporate Social Responsibility**

Contributing to social development is engrained in our vision. Our social objectives are aimed at improving the quality of life of people in general and socio economic environment in and around our mining locations. During the year we spent close to 200 crores towards various social development activities. Education, Health & Hygiene, skill development and Livelihood developments programmes were the key areas of our social interventions. Particulars of our CSR initiatives are detailed in this Annual Report.

**Corporate Governance**

Your Company has complied with Corporate Governance norms as stipulated by the SEBI Regulations / DPE Guidelines falling within its ambit. For more details, may refer to Report on Corporate Governance which forms part of Directors' Report.

I would also like to inform you that during this year also, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) has made NIL observations on the Annual Accounts of the Company for the year 2019-20.

**Environment Sustainability**

We continue to progress on various environment and energy conservation initiatives in line with our motto being a responsible miner. During the year 1 MW capacity grid connected Roof Top Solar (RTS) power plants were installed and commissioned at various production units of our company. Under our sustainability development programme, construction of Sewage Treatment Plant with SBR technology at Bachel at a cost of Rs.6.61 crores has been constructed. Similar treatment plant at Kirandul at a cost of Rs.8.0 crores for treatment of domestic effluents is under construction stage. BIOM, Bachel complex was awarded Greentech Environment Award (Winner) and 4 first prizes and 2 second prizes in various categories including 1st prize in Overall Performance category in Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Week. Every year Carbon Footprint studies are being conducted for disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

**Acknowledgement**

I would like to acknowledge that all these have been possible only due to the relentless and dedicated effort and hard work by the employees of the Company. The Covid-19 Pandemic has added more challenges to NMDC collective and we strive to overcome the same.

On behalf of the shareholders and management of the Company, I thank the Government of India, Ministry of Steel, State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and other stakeholders for the confidence and trust reposed in your Company.

I also place on record my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Board Members, C&AG, other Organizations and regulatory bodies for their unstinted support, guidance and co-operation extended to NMDC. It will certainly be our endeavour to put in our best efforts for sustained growth, expansion and prosperity of the company benefitting all stakeholders in times to come.

With this I conclude my address. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Jai Hind

**Sumit Deb**  
Chairman & Managing Director

29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Hyderabad.

**एनएमडीसी**

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Regd. Office: "Khanji Bhavan", 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500028.  
CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

**NMDC**

www.nmdc.co.in

Note : The above statement does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM of NMDC held on 29-09-2020.



# Mfg sector raises hopes of recovery

Are green shoots visible in India's economy? It's too early to say anything specific on this. Our country's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by a whopping 23.9 per cent during April-June 2020, the first quarter of the current financial year. This deep and steep contraction in the economic activity indicated the debilitating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the country. Though Covid-19 triggered by Chinese-originated novel coronavirus did not show mercy on any of the nations, no other major economy suffered the way India did in those three months for which data was announced recently. The total lockdown, which was in force from March 25 to April 20, crippled the economy. Further, subsequent curbs also took a heavy toll on it.

The unlocking of the economy- which began in phases on April 20 and still continuing - paved the way for the resumption of the economic activity in the country. But the economy is yet to go full steam owing to ever-rising Covid-19 cases and pandemic's spread to hinterlands. From a low of 1,553 new daily infections

on April 20 when the easing of Covid-induced curbs began, the daily caseload ballooned to over 74,000 now. On certain days, the number even hovered around 1 lakh mark. Currently, India, with nearly 67 lakh in total infections, ranks second after the US in global Covid tally. Steep increase in infections during a once-in-a-century pandemic like this will certainly lead to slowdown in economic activity.

This had prompted many global and domestic rating agencies to forecast a negative GDP growth of around 11 per cent or higher in India in FY21. If this comes true, the economy will receive a huge jolt and may need a couple of years to recover.

However, there are ample chances of the economy throwing up a better-than-expected performance if activity picks up and green shoots sprout. The manufacturing data for September 2020 announced recently brought in some cheer. In addition to improving for a second consecutive month, the manufacturing activity reached an eight-and-a-half year high in September. The headline IHS Markit India Manufacturing

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) zoomed to 56.8 in September from 52.0 in August. The September reading is the highest since 2012.

The key index slipped into the negative zone this April after clocking positive growth for 32 straight months. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that, points to contraction. Increase in new orders ahead of festive season fueled expansion in the key sector, raising hopes of a speedier economic recovery. Services sector also saw improvement last month.

The Modi government announced Rs 20-lakh-crore Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in May to help the ailing economy tide over the Covid crisis. This included a six-month moratorium on bank loans, which ended in August. The GDP recovery is likely to gather more pace if the Centre launches another round of stimulus.

But the economic recovery also depends on how the pandemic plays out and when the much-awaited vaccine becomes a reality. GDP will suffer more if a second wave of infections sweeps across the county as estimated by some. Anyway, it will be a while before we could bid farewell to this Chinese virus. Till that time, our economy will be in a tight spot.



# Can social exclusion lead to suicide?

Prakriti Poddar

Human beings cannot survive without a social net. From an evolutionary perspective, a feeling of belongingness is necessary in social life for survival. When people are intentionally excluded from a group, the experience can cause undue psychological stress, leading to depression and suicidal ideation. Inclusion is essential for safety, physical well-being, reproductive success, and mental health. Being excluded can be stressful on a number of fronts and produce negative thoughts that can weaken the immune system and cause physical illnesses in the long run. As paradoxical as it may sound, belongingness is closely linked to our self-esteem.

Belonging to a group defines our social identity, which is a significant component of our individual identity. Social identity is the image of yourself that emerges from the awareness that you belong to one or more groups, which are in turn characterized by their own values and characteristics. Consequently, social exclusion is one of the most painful experiences anyone can go through. Marginalisation of an individual by a group or even being ignored by another individual can negatively affect quality of life. If someone is ignored for a short duration, they can recover from the psychological effects. If the act is prolonged, the effect can turn chronic. Chronic exclusion causes chronic pain, which is associated with high levels of negative emotions and a generally grim prognosis.

## The effect of social exclusion

Practically speaking, social exclusion is linked to the risk of unproductivity, poverty and further marginalisation. The social problems related to exclusion are important from sociological, psychological and economic points of view. Such experiences are commonplace and categories of people who are most vulnerable include single women, unemployed people, the disabled, and the homeless. In truth, all of us undergo a lot of pain when we are excluded from a group.

There are also periods in one's life when one is more vulnerable to such experiences, especially adolescence. It is one of the most important periods for fostering and strengthening social relationships with our peer group. The need for a social identity is the most important need at this stage of life. Acceptance and popularity greatly play an important role at this stage. Exclusion by peers can make one feel unaccepted and create intense negative feelings, which are often exacerbated by bullying.

Bullying is a widespread social behavior that is persistent across all age groups. It is often characterized by violent verbal and physical behavior, apart from indirect psychological aggressions. Bullies intentionally act out such behaviours on their victims repeatedly. It becomes hard to identify when it is acted through peer exclusion strategies, which are quite commonplace but not as easily noticeable.

This is compounded by the fact that newer forms of social exclusion have emerged with new technologies, with cyberbullying and sexting being the most commonly reported. There have been multiple reports of adolescents being mocked, insulted and attacked on social media, so much so that they have had to change schools. Sexting can also lead to social violence if it is done non-consensually, scarring the victims deeply.

## How can we address it?

Such occurrences have led to an increase in the risk factor for suicide. It is something that is turning out to be a serious problem in countries across the world. It is time we consider it a global public health problem, and take steps to design and implement appropriate interventions to prevent the suicide cases from going up. Suicide is particularly difficult to deal with because it is deeply tied to a number of religious and cultural traditions. Although researchers and psychological experts have suggested that suicide screening programs and suicide prevention programming at the school level helps lower the rate of suicides, we don't have evidence-based comprehensive programs yet. To make progress on this front, we have to overcome the cultural barriers that prevent dialog and confrontation on these issues that are not only delicate but also come with varying degrees of cultural baggage.

Social exclusion is a complex phenomenon and can be analysed by experts from different disciplines from different points of view, with many possible areas of convergence and divergence. By factoring in quantitative aspects based on neuroscience and qualitative ones based on psychology and sociology, we can deepen our understanding of the subject and come up with useful strategies to promote social inclusion. The pandemic has brought mental health issues to the forefront again and with a potential epidemic looming over the horizon, we need more rigorous research on this subject to foster greater peer unity and prevent suicides.

(The author is an expert in mental health, Director, Poddar Wellness Ltd and MD, Poddar Foundation)

# FCRA BILL 2020

# What will it mean for India's non-profits?

Viveck Verma

We live in a world where frugality is a virtue. Spending is superficial, base, immoral even. And nowhere is this association more pronounced than in the non-profit sector. The rules that allow for-profit companies to thrive do not apply to social causes. Rather, a different rule book exists for non-profits, one that can be summarised as "Thou shalt not scale revenue." With an almost global scorn for high overhead costs and advertising, the global economy has more-or-less universally decided to crack down heavier on companies professing to do good than on companies expressing no desire to uplift those involved. Bizarre? I would think so.

Just this week, the Lok Sabha passed the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020. The Bill assumes that those from India's 3.4 million NGOs who receive foreign aid are guilty till they can prove their innocence. Meaning the burden of proof is reversed, lying with the NGO to establish their pure intentions and clean operations.

The timing is especially unfortunate. Between 2015 and 2018, Indian NGOs lost 40 per cent foreign funding due to previous policy restrictions. On top of this blow, from 2019 Indian NGOs now must also battle a co-Covid world. What the non-profit sector needs now is more global collaboration, not less. Developing economies require increasing support of entities with capital, since already-vulnerable populations have been most affected by the lockdown. And the non-profit sector is of course not restricted to the Covid response. Scientific research, livelihood efforts, and research will slow down in general. The purpose of a State is to facilitate mutually beneficial global associations, not slow them down. Comparable to (and perhaps more urgent than) the 'ease of doing business' metric, 'ease of facilitating social change' takes a hit with this Bill.

Most concerning is that the Bill greatly curbs NGOs' overhead spending. Previously, the cap on overhead costs was 50 per cent of total foreign donations received; the revised limit is now 20 per cent. Why this switch? Why the need to keep overhead low for charities and ensure their frugality? Dan Pallotta explained the answer brilliantly in his 2013 lecture that would still hold water if delivered today.

The context behind this perspective is unfortunately another episode of white philosophical history that found its way into global law. The Puritans immigrated to America from England in the 17th century with two opposing needs. The first,



Between 2015 and 2018, Indian NGOs lost 40 per cent foreign funding due to previous policy restrictions. On top of this blow, from 2019 Indian NGOs now must also battle a co-Covid world. What the non-profit sector needs now is more global collaboration, not less. Developing economies require increasing support of entities with capital, since already-vulnerable populations have been most affected by the lockdown. And the non-profit sector is of course not restricted to the Covid response. Scientific research, livelihood efforts, and research will slow down in general. The purpose of a State is to facilitate mutually beneficial global associations, not slow them down. Comparable to (and perhaps more urgent than) the 'ease of doing business' metric, 'ease of facilitating social change' takes a hit with this Bill

to make truckloads of money; the second, to cleanse their Christian souls of this greed. The solution? To be aggressively capitalist in business but then give to charity without the expectation of profit. Business and charity were thus kept mutually exclusive, because one is the sin and the other is the repentance. Thus came about the split between the for-profit and non-profit sectors, both expected to operate on different moral goals.

Fast forward to this century and everyone even outside the Puritans consider making money off charity a crime. Pallotta wonderfully illustrates the absurdity of our moral system: "You wanna make \$50 million selling violent video games to kids, go for it! We'll put you on the cover of Wired magazine. But if you want to make \$500,000 trying to cure kids of malaria and you're considered a parasite yourself."

Thus, the social sector faces a host of additional scrutinizing mechanisms to ensure its non-profit status. And this is where the issue of overhead comes in. When it comes to capital devoted to charity, it gives the average person shivers to

think that a large chunk of those resources are being spent in administration alone. It makes the donor wince to think their contributions aren't directly reaching the food bowls of the hungry child they saw on the poster, but rather to sustain the graphic designers who made the poster, or the copywriter who emailed it to them, or the janitor who cleans their office.

Capping overhead is a way of reaffirming to those working towards social causes that "thou shalt not be greedy". Meanwhile, the for-profit sector is praised for scale, it's success measured in the 'size of the pie' i.e their bulk of revenue. The only way to increase the size of a pie is to invest. Invest in advertising, in fundraising, in customer service -- all of which comes under the demonised term 'overhead'. Thus, the new rules effectively limit non-profits abilities to increase the amount of resources available to tackle the causes they were created to resolve.

The most immediate outcome will be a decrease in the market salary for non-profit employees. Working in the social sector comes with great scrutiny. There

is pressure on applicants looking for jobs in non-profits not to have an expectation of a life as comfortable as that of their for-profit peers. There is the understanding that non-profit employees must make personal sacrifices to sustain their causes. After all, the cause is bigger than the individual.

Capping overheads will immediately lead to cost-cutting measures that will negatively affect those working tirelessly for a better, more equitable nation. The wage gap between professionals in the non-profit and for-profit sectors has always been shamefully massive. This move will only disincentive the youth from devoting themselves full-time to the causes they feel strongly about. Rather, they will find it more suitable to their comforts to earn in the corporate world and then donate to the non-profit sector. Given the increasing unemployment rates in the country, India would be better off encouraging investment in our non-profit employees rather than curbing it.

As development sector veteran Venkatesh Nayak points out, the ultimate consequence will be that operational NGOs will be restricted in size. Instead of a well-established and far-reaching NGO infrastructure, India will see a fractured network with many small and disconnected NGOs working towards the same cause. Because regardless of the amount of funding, no operation can scale up if it can't use these funds to attract and harness more human power. Given all these factors, it is a mystery why NGOs are demonised for high overheads. At the end of the day, if this overhead brings in more revenue, increases the size of the pie, and brings in more resources to tackle the issue, then why do we still demand that NGOs remain frugal? It is counterproductive to securing equity for those left behind in Indian development.

What also is concerning is that it is unlikely governments in the years to come will reverse the established restrictions. Director of the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy Ingrid Srinath points out that the trend with the FCRA has been to crack down heavier and heavier on non-profits. Thus, the social sector finds itself governed with entirely restrictive policies for the foreseeable future. It is unfortunate that the FCRA Bill furthers this trend. I believe it is time for lawmakers around the world to re-evaluate whether and how to allow the non-profit sector an opportunity to operate on a level playing field with the corporate world so as to increase the size of their pie.

(The author is founder of Upsurge Global & Senior Advisor, Telangana State Innovation Cell)

## BJP should address Bihar migrant issue

Bihar is seeing an interesting political scenario where Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) under the leadership of Chirag Paswan breaking away from BJP-dominated NDA for polls for State-assembly in Bihar, but remains glued to NDA alliance at the Centre because of its so-called allergy with Janata Dal (United) of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. LJP in political circles is called as forecaster of political weather thus creating an uncertainty about poll outcome.

However LJP has rightly criticised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar JD(U) for his failure to prevent migration of



## LETTERS

Bihari population to other parts of the country in search of livelihood in 15 long years of his rule as state Chief Minister. Large-scale return of migrant Bihari labour on foot during lockdown has developed a need of policy by any future government in the state to explore all possibilities to provide employment and livelihood in the state itself. Rather BJP ruling in the Centre should come out with a plan in its poll-manifesto to pen down steps the party would take to create sufficient opportunities for jobs and livelihood in the state itself in case BJP-aligned government comes back to power in the State.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, Delhi

## Unholy LJP-BJP deal

The break up of two-men family party Lokshakti Janata Party (LJP) in the current Bihar election is nothing but a move by BJP to treat the party headed by Ramvilas and Chirag Paswan as vote cutter which in turn would make BJP much stronger to deal with JD(U). The voters would be made to listen to PM praising JD(U) rule led by Nitish and vote for JDU/BJP alliance and LJP's Chirag Paswan who was until few days back was part of NDA, would be highlighting the misuse of JD(U) led by Nitish Kumar to defeat it. The outcome of the break up is going to be the same like age old children's story of two cats and monkey, and in Bihar BJP will walk away with cake. There is a lesson for Jagan who is attempting cozy up with BJP



to become part of NDA, unless he has plans to merge his party with the national party in power.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

## Poll politics

The CBI raids have come back to haunt Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar and his brother, DK Suresh. The CBI conducted raids on nine family properties in the State, four in Delhi and one in Mumbai, and recovered cash of Rs.57 lakh and several incriminating documents. While the Congress strongman termed the raids as a political vendetta in the run-up to the bypolls, the BJP sought to distance itself and remarked that the CBI action was only a natural outcome of investigations against Mr Shivakumar since 2017.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

## Mallya's musings

Vijay Mallya had gone on record saying that the amount of \$40 million (₹600 crores) he received from British liquor major Diageo Pic was one among thousands of transactions he did and could not be counted as an asset. Strange reasoning indeed, what else assets are created from, otherwise than by transactions, among other deals. Once again his contention that "he had no control over that money as he had already disbursed it among his three adult children, who are U.S. citizens" sounds too tenacious and abrasively evasive.

Seshagiri Row Karry, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com



# 204-acre landgrab by labour minister alleged



■ TDP leader Ayyanna Patrudue says the land in Aspari mandal in Kurnool district was unauthorisedly transferred to Jayaram's wife, brother-in-law and many benimis

■ According to him, the scam has come to light when Ittina Plantations Pvt Ltd, which owns the lands, filed a police case over the encroachment

■ Demands CM to order an impartial probe or else it can be deduced that he is also partner in crime



**Amaravati:** TDP leader Chin-takayala Ayyanna Patrudu on Tuesday alleged that labour minister Gummanuru Jayaram has grabbed 204 acre land in Kurnool district's Aspari mandal.

Patrudu claimed that the land was unauthorisedly transferred to the minister's wife, brothers-in-law, and several others.

"The land grab came to light after the Ittina Plantations Pvt. Ltd., which owns these lands, filed a police case against the encroachers," claimed Patrudu.

He alleged that Jayaram grabbed these lands by forging documents in a criminal conspiracy.

"The minister's kin got these

lands registered from one Manjunath, who stepped aside from the firm's management a long time ago. A fake document was created that Manjunath was given power of attorney on these lands," Patrudu claimed.

The TDP leader demanded that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy order an impartial probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) into the land scandal.

"If the Chief Minister did not take any action despite having evidence clearly, the public would have to think that he was also a partner in this land grab. No action was taken even 13 days after the TDP gave a complaint to the ACB with evidence

that Jayaram accepted a costly Benz car in the ESI scam," he claimed.

Patrudu has also demanded Jayaram to explain how he managed to pay Rs 1.63 crore to register Ittina plantation lands.

"All the registrations for 204 acre took place on a single day on March 2 this year. Immediately, the minister's benamis approached the Kurnool District Cooperative Bank for loans," Patrudu claimed.

He said Jayaram has plans to grab over 450 acre lands belonging to the Ittina company there and said the local farmers, who have equal rights, were now being terrified and not allowed to till the lands.

## HC extends status quo on shifting of captials

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The AP High Court full bench comprising Chief Justice J K Maheshwari, Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy has extended the status quo on trifurcation of capital on Tuesday.

It also divided all the cases pertaining to Amaravati capital shifting into 17 categories as part of hearing them on daily basis. According to Sunkara Rajendra Prasad, a senior advocate, the court also ordered status quo on the two legislations, AP CRDA Repeal Act and AP Decentralised Development Act, and grouped the cases related to this aspect into a separate category.

There are other categories based on the nature of the PILs, he added.

Rajendra Prasad explained that the PILs opposing capital shifting, records from Assembly, implementation of Amaravati capital city Master Plan, cases on different committees, yearly expenditure, cases on Accountant General etc., were grouped into separate

# Zakia Khanum, Suresh Babu take oath as MLCs

- Legislative Council chairman A Md Sharif administers oath in his chambers
- A host of ruling party leaders and public representatives attend the ceremony
- Zakia has been nominated under Governor's quota to the Council

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Zakia Khanum and Penmatsa Suryanarayana Raju aka Suresh Babu took oath as the members of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council in the Council chairman's chambers here on Tuesday. Council chairman A Md Sharif administered oath of office to the new members.

It may be recalled that Zakia Khanum has been appointed member under the Governor's quota and Suryanarayana Raju has been elected by the MLAs.

Deputy Chief Ministers Amzath Basha, Pamula Pushpasreevani, government chief whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy, Vizianagaram MP Bellam Chandrasekhar, government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, Pedana MLA Jogi Ramesh, Ponuru MLA Kilari Rosaiah, Vi-



Zakia Khanum and P Suryanarayana Raju speaking to media at Assembly after being sworn in as members of Legislative Council on Tuesday

jayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, Payakaraopet MLA Golla Babu Rao, Nellimarla MLA D Appalanaidu, MLC Vennapusa Gopala Reddy, APSSDC chairman Challa Madhusudan Reddy Assembly secretary Balakrishnamacharyulu, Assembly deputy secretary Vijaya Raju and others were present.

Later, addressing the media at the media point at the Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha congratulated the newly-elected members of the Council. He said that Abdul Awaz Khan worked hard for the party and after his death, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan

Reddy has made his wife Zakia Khanum as the MLC.

Government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said history was created with the nomination of a minority woman to the Council. Likewise, senior Penmatsa Sambasiva Rao who represented the party from Vizianagaram district is remembered by electing his family member Suryanarayana Raju as the MLC. He hoped that both the MLCs would serve people and bring good name to the chief minister.

Zakia Khanum and Suryanarayana Raju thanked the Chief Minister for reposing faith in them.

## New CBI team to continue Viveka murder probe

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kadapa:** A new team from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be arriving at Kadapa to investigate the murder of former MP YS Vivekananda Reddy. According to the sources, the new team is likely to reach Kadapa on Wednesday.

It may be recalled that seven CBI officials who were probing the case were recently got infected by coronavirus and are undergoing treatment in quarantine centres for the last one week. Meanwhile, the investigation has reportedly reached a final stage and the Central agency is going to wind up it soon.

## TTD chief releases 2021 calendar, diary in Hyd

**Tirupati:** TTD Chairman Y V Subba Reddy on Tuesday released the TTD calendar and diary for the year 2021 at a simple function at the Information Centre at Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, he sought blessings of Lord Venkateswara for the people to win the battle over pandemic Covid-19. The TTD chairman said the calendars and diaries were unveiled by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy during the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams held in Ekantham in view of pandemic corona restrictions at Tirumala, last month. He said for the benefit of people of Telangana State the calendars and diaries are made available at the TTD Kalyana Mandapam at Himayatnagar. TTD trust board member and local advisory committee member Govind Hari and other members were also present.

# 3 capitals: HC orders govt to produce all related documents

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The full bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday directed the Advocate General, who represents the state, including Governor's office, standing counsel for Legislature to file a counter in the interlocutory applications (IAs) by Parchuri Ashok Babu, TDP MLC on three capitals, by October 9 failing which, the IAs will be allowed.

The High Court full bench consisting of Chief Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari, Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy heard the plea.

Ravishankar Jandhyala, coun-

- Petitioner Ashok Babu's counsel argues that the entire process from introduction to assent of Governor for two Bills will reveal the fraud on Constitution

sel for Ashok Babu explained to the court that the entire procedure adopted by the Assembly from introduction to obtaining assent from the Governor is tainted with illegality and unconstitutionality.

He said cumulatively, the IAs, which require the respondents to produce before the court, Viz., the video footage of Legislative Council pertaining June

16 and 17 of 2020, the bills register, blue copies of the bills (including CRDA Repeal Act and Decentralised Development Act), documents establishing the signature of the Legislative Council chairman, would unearth the fraud on Constitution.

The court said that these are all essential documents to come to a conclusion as to whether there is a fraud on Constitution in introduction, discussion, debate, transmission and passing of bills, the consequential assent.

When the Advocate General Sriram Subrahmanyam opposed the plea, court rejected his plea. The matter is posted to Friday for filing the counters and hearing.

## Wakf properties digitisation on anvil

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** All the properties of Wakf in the state would be digitised to protect them from encroachments and to keep the information readily available, said Deputy Chief Minister and minister for minority welfare Amzath Basha.

Addressing the DROs (district registration officers) and DMWOs (district minority welfare officers) through videoconference from the Secretariat here on Tuesday, the Deputy Chief minister said that priority should be given to protect the Wakf properties as per the direction of the Chief Minister. He said that it is the responsibility of the DROs to protect the wakf properties. "The DROs should conduct meetings every three months with wakf board properties protection committee to review the situation," he said.

He said that the meetings should also discuss the action to be taken

In a videoconference with DRO and DMWOs, Dy CM Amzath Basha says the aim is to protect and keep info ready on the lands

to improve the revenue from the Wakf properties.

Stating that several thousands of acre belonging to the Wakf board are still under occupation by unauthorised persons, he instructed the officials to take back the land from them. The revenue from the Wakf properties is also very low, he said.

The minority welfare minister also enquired about the legal disputes regarding the wakf properties. He instructed the DROs to provide the district-wise details of civil suits in various courts across the state.

Earlier, principal secretary of minority welfare department Iliaz Rizvi said that the Wakf properties which were under encroachment should be immediately taken over.

He said that irrespective of court cases, the encroached land should be taken back immediately with the help of the police if necessary.

The Wakf lands could be leased out to the government offices to improve the revenue and at the same time protecting the property, he said.

The minister complimented the efforts of the district administration of East Godavari who took back 130 acre from the encroachers.

Referring to the poor revenue from the agriculture and commercial land of the Wakf Board, he said the rent should be collected as per the market rate. The rent revenue committee would tour the districts to fix the rent as per the market rates.

# 178 held for attacks on places of worship: DIG

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** Police arrested 178 persons in connection with the offences that took place at the temples and other places of worship across the state in recent weeks, said DIG Pala Raju.

Addressing media along with Uday Bhaskar, AIG (Admin) at the state police office at Mangalagiri on Tuesday, Pala Raju said the police had taken initiative for the installation of CC cameras in 5,400 temples after chariot burning incident at Antarvedi.

He said the state police are trying to maintain communal harmony in the state and check the crimes taking places at the temples and places of worship.

Referring to the crime data re-

- DIG Pala Raju says police got CC cameras installed at 5,400 temples after Antarvedi incident
- Denying allegation by TDP chief that a large number of cases were filed against AP police, the DIG says NCRB data is based on wrong information

leased by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on the cases registered against the Andhra Pradesh police, the DIG said some wrong data was furnished related to cases in Chittoor and Visakhapatnam districts.

He said by mistake, it was registered that 1,681 cases were booked against AP police. He said 100



DIG G Pala Raju addressing a press conference at state police office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday

cases were registered against police in 2016, 164 cases in 2017, 97 cases in 2018 and 111 cases in 2019. He said wrong information was furnished to the NCRB that 380 cases were registered in Chittoor district, 257 in Visakhapatnam city

and 972 cases in Visakhapatnam rural. He said the information related to wrong data published in the NCRB was sent to the media in the state. He further said the revised data was also sent to NCRB. Referring to the letters written

by the Leader of Opposition and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu to DGP D Gautam Sawang recently, Pala Raju said the opposition leader had written letters without confirming the facts.

He said the AP police are discharging their duties without bias and fulfilling duties fearlessly. He said the state police had developed work culture in the state during the last four decades and Chandrababu Naidu was also took part in it as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh three time and as senior politician.

He also explained the Zero FIR, Disha app launched by the AP police, initiative taken by the state police to give protection to the temples and the places of worship and other services.

## AP records 5,795 fresh Covid cases

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** State has registered 5,795 new Covid-19 positive cases, increasing the state's tally to 7.2 lakh, even as 6,046 more recoveries outnumbered new cases on Tuesday.

Chittoor beat East Godavari district to report the highest number of cases - 970, raising the district's tally to 66,555.

Among other places, East Godavari accounted for 801 infections, followed by West Godavari (696), Prakasam (580), Krishna (482), Nellore (451), Guntur (441) and Kadapa (434).

Meanwhile, 33 more patients succumbed to the virus, swelling the statewide toll to 6,052. As usual, 6,046 recoveries outnumbered infections, resulting in total recoveries rising to 6.7 lakh.

Of the 7.2 lakh cases, active cases declined to 50,776.

## Sloka Parayanam completes 6 months



File picture of Sundarakanda Pathanam at Nada Neerajanam platform at Tirumala

**Tirumala:** The devotional Sloka Parayanam (recitation) - the most prestigious spiritual programme of recent times launched by the TTD during lockdown period with an aim to secure global health and safety from Covid-19 at Naada Niranjanam platform at Tirumala has successfully completed 180 days on Tuesday.

Disclosing it the chief Acharya of the Parayanam KSS Avadhani who is also the Principal of TTD-run SV Veda Vignana Peetam at Dharmagiri, Tirumala said, the TTD has commenced the Shloka Parayanam on April 10 and till June 9, Yoga Vasistha Dhanwan-tari Maha Mantra Parayanam was

rendered for 62 days. When the darshan of Lord Venkateswara resumed to devotees almost after 80 days of lockdown, Sundarakanda Pathanam commenced from the same stage from June 10 onwards. "This epic episode from Ramayanam has completed 118 days today," he noted. TTD devotional satellite channel SVBC is providing live telecast of the recitation daily attracting a huge number of devotees all over the globe.

Meanwhile Acharya Srikant Mishra, the chief priest of the famous Sri Kasi Viswanath temple at Varanasi who was in Tirumala, participated in the Sundarakanda Parayanam on Tuesday.

## Srikalahasti sees surge in devotees

- Temple has witnessed more than 7k devotees on Monday, highest during the pandemic
- Over 1,700 Rahu-Ketu pooja tickets have been sold
- Temple generates about Rs 10 lakh revenue a day

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** In Srikalahasteeswara temple, the chanting of Om Namahshivaya resonates as the number of devotees visiting the shrine has increased gradually during the last 10 to 15 days. As many as 7,830 devotees worshipped the deities on Monday which is the highest number after lockdown.

With the number of devotees visiting the hill shrine Tirumala has been increasing, other temples also were witnessing the buzz of activity as many pilgrims will cover the surrounding temples in the district. Though it was opened for devotees on June 17 after lockdown restrictions were relaxed, only less than 1000 devotees have visited the temple for most of the days till August.



From August the number of pilgrims has increase on few occasions. The temple has witnessed 3,852 devotees on September 13 and 5,175 on September 27. On October 5, the number has crossed 7,000. Similarly, the number of Rahu-Ketu poojas for which the temple has been a famous destination, were as low as less than 100 in the initial days of June-July.

Even the Rahu-Ketu poojas have increased in number to 1,799 on Monday out of which 1,058 were performed by commoners with the purchase Rs.500 tickets. The temple management has

started performing arjitha sevas recently with limited number of tickets. Temple executive officer C Chandrasekhar Reddy told The Hans India that with the increase in the number of devotees the revenue also started going up. From less than Rs 50,000 per day in the initial days, now the temple is generating an average of Rs 10 lakh per day with a maximum of Rs 16 lakhs on Monday.

Rahu-Ketu poojas fetch the major chunk of revenue for the temple. Still, the number of devotees performing these has to be doubled to reach normal figures, he

said. However, as the turnout of devotees was increasing their strengthened security and SPF personnel would be screening everyone before entering the temple. The services of Shiv sevaks were also being utilised. As a precautionary move, they are sanitising entire premises every hour and cleaning the railings. The temple authorities have opened cottages in two blocks to provide accommodation to the devotees. The temple administration is expecting more devotees when transport facilities operate in full capacity in the coming days.

## 3 share Nobel prize in physics for discoveries about black hole

Continued from P1

Einstein did not himself believe that black holes really exist, these super-heavyweight monsters that capture everything that enters them.

In January 1965, ten years after Einstein's death, Penrose proved that black holes really can form and described them in detail.

His "groundbreaking" article is still regarded as the most important contribution to the general theory of relativity since Einstein, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Data, skills will drive AI adoption

“A greater artificial intelligence (AI) adoption is driven by 3 imperatives - data, trust and skills - and this is where India should focus its efforts. Getting AI done right is difficult and we're only at about 4% into the journey globally.

— IBM CEO Arvind Krishna



## MASKS

### Curbs on N95 mask exports lifted

Union Commerce Ministry lifted restriction on export of N95 masks. Now, masks of all categories can be exported from India. "The export policy of N-95/FFP-2 masks is amended from 'restricted' to 'free' category making all types of masks freely exportable," a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said.

## FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.7	South	
Euro	90.87	African Rand	5.08
UAE Dirham	22	Hong Kong Dollar	10.9
Thai Baht	2.71	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	99.1	New Zealand Dollar	51.27
Australian Dollar	55.19	Saudi Riyal	21.53
Canadian Dollar	58.13	Swedish Krona	9.47
Swiss Franc	83.5	Singapore Dollar	56.73

DELHI WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Evolet opens outlet in TS

**Hyderabad:** Evolet India, a Gurugram-based startup with focus on electric vehicles, opened its main showroom in Hyderabad. It plans to open dealerships in Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and other cities. The brand has drawn up a plan to open around 10 dealerships by March 2021 with target sales of around 150 units per month per dealer. "India is transitioning towards clean mobility with Telangana, the youngest State in India showing mature interest in the EV market," said Prerana Chaturvedi, Director & CEO, Evolet India. This inauguration of the showroom marks the entry of Evolet India in Telangana region, thereby playing a significant role in bolstering the central government's 'Make in India' initiative with local suppliers in India, she added.

### Ceat unveils tyre range

**Hyderabad:** Ceat Specialty, a division of tyre maker Ceat Ltd, launched its new range of farm tyres, Vardhan. The new range comprises front and rear tyres for tractors. Vijay Gambhire, Chief Executive, CEAT Specialty, said, "With Vardhan, we have an opportunity to serve our customers with an international standard product. The range is designed to perform as reliably in haulage applications as in core farming activities. We are confident that our discerning customers will find in Vardhan a solid, dependable performer they eagerly waited for." Vardhan rear's deep lugs ensure less slippage and provide long tyre life. The front tyre is a 4 rib tyre, leading to better load distribution. Ceat Specialty offers a wide range of off highway tyres for various segments like farming, mining, industrial and construction equipment.

### Amazon's fire TV stick

**Hyderabad:** Amazon launched next-generation fire TV stick called Fire TV Stick Lite. The new device features an enhanced 1.7 GHz quad-core processor that makes it 50 per cent more powerful than the previous generation. It delivers faster streaming in 1080p at 60fps with HDR compatibility. The dual-band WiFi supports 5 GHz networks for more stable streaming. The device also supports Dolby Atmos for immersive sound with compatible content and speakers, and an Alexa voice remote. "Millions of fire TV customers in India will now experience an even better and faster streaming experience with this launch. TV at home has become the mainstay for movies and latest news during these uncertain times," said Parag Gupta, Head of Amazon Devices, India.

### Kankatala sees rise in e-sales

**Hyderabad:** Kankatala, a saree brand, registered a 95 per cent rise in online sales since lockdown. One of the oldest saree brands in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, it has been representing the age-old weaving techniques for more than seven decades. The brand has been popular among Indian diaspora who once made it a point to visit the store during their visit to India. They now shop online for various occasions. "Most of our weavers have worked with us for three generations. As a brand, we have stood by them in various circumstances and situations while we also ensure fair prices are paid to them for their effort. With the pandemic hitting the world, they were most affected and therefore as a brand we utilized our online presence to clear out the stock," Anirudha Kankatala, Director, Kankatala Sarees.

# Services sector output stabilises during Sept

Improves for 5th month in a row, but still remains in contraction zone

**New Delhi:** Indian service sector output broadly stabilised in September but remained in the contraction zone as incoming new business fell moderately due to the damaging impact of the pandemic on demand, leading to more job losses, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose for the fifth straight month in September to 49.8 from 41.8 in August.

However, the Indian services sector activity contracted for the seventh successive month in September. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"The relaxation of lockdown rules in India helped the service sector move towards a recovery in September. Participants of the PMI survey signalled broadly stable business activity and a much softer decline in new work intakes," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

Monitored companies that observed growth commented on the reopening of business

### On the job front, the services sector witnessed decline in employment for the seventh month in a row



units amid the loosening of lockdown rules. While, firms that reported a contraction mentioned the damaging impact of the pandemic on demand, the survey said.

On the job front, the services sector witnessed decline in employment for the seventh month in a row, as per the survey.

"Payroll numbers decreased

further, but several firms reported that attempts to take on extra workers were hampered by a lack of available labour," Lima said.

"Backlogs data suggest that hiring efforts will continue in the near term, however, so we could see a better employment trend in coming months provided that people are willing to leave their hometown in search

for vacancies," she added. On the prices front, input prices rose in September, with monitored companies citing higher fuel, meat and vegetable costs.

The overall rate of inflation was at a seven-month high. Going ahead, firms are optimistic regarding growth prospects.

"In line with hopes that a vaccine for Covid-19 will be rolled out, companies were optimistic about the year-ahead outlook for business activity. September marked the first month since April in which service providers were confident towards growth prospects," the survey said. Meanwhile, the Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output rose from 46.0 in August to 54.6 in September, signaling a marked rate of activity growth across the private sector economy.

"Taking into account the performance of the manufacturing industry, a better picture of the Indian economy is painted. Private sector output expanded for the first time in six months during September, and at an above-trend rate, while the increase in sales was the first since February," Lima said.

## Foreign firms flouting MSME tendering norms

**New Delhi:** An engineering professionals body has written to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari alleging that foreign companies are flouting the MSME tendering norms.

The Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI), in a letter to Gadkari, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has drawn the attention of the government towards flouting of the MSME tendering norms by "the powerful foreign companies".

"The Union Government had recently changed the tendering system to benefit the small and medium enterprises in the country by limiting tenders below Rs 200 crore for Indian companies only. But the provisions are being flouted by powerful foreign companies wherein they set up business operations in India by incorporating a company under Companies Act 2013 either as Joint Ventures or Wholly owned subsidiaries or a Liaison/Representative Office.

"These entities operate as an Indian Company, duly complying with the provisions of the Indian Company Law and Indian tax laws. The current definition allows such companies



to enjoy all benefits provided to Indian companies, especially the MSME's," said Amitabha Ghosal, President, Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI).

At present for all practical purposes, these foreign companies become Indian company under the ACT, do their business and after paying due taxes, accrue the profits after tax to their parent company abroad, thereby depleting the country of precious Forex reserves, said KK Kapila, Chairman, Infrastructure Committee, CEAI.

## Indian IT sector set for higher growth in 2021

Covid-19 pandemic will accelerate digital IT spends: Fitch

**New Delhi:** The Indian IT services sector is expected to return to high single-digit revenue growth in 2021-2022 galvanised by higher demand for digital transformation after a flattish 2020, according to Fitch Ratings.

In a new report titled 'Spotlight: Indian IT Services Sector', Fitch said the impact of the coronavirus pandemic is seen to be only moderate and short term, as customers focus on transforming their businesses digitally, moving services and work platforms online, and minimise spending on legacy services.

Pandemic will accelerate digital IT spends, it said. Most companies have reported robust deal wins that should support growth in 2021-2022, despite the revenue decline in the second quarter of 2020, said the report. "The Indian IT services



Indian industry to continue to take advantage of its low-cost operations and maintain its strong foothold in the global IT landscape

sector is likely to resume high single-digit revenue growth in 2021-2022 on higher demand for digital transformation," it said.

Fitch added that it expected the Indian industry to continue to take advantage of its low-cost operations and maintain its strong foothold in the global IT landscape.

"The industry will continue to remain export-driven as it

mainly serves US and Europe-based clients. We forecast the industry's revenue to rise by a high single-digit percentage during 2021-2022, after a relatively flat year in 2020," it said.

The industry has seen an average growth rate of about 8 per cent during 2014-2019, it said. The impact from the US ban on new H1B and L1B visa applications is manageable, it said.

## RBI's MPC meet from today

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India will announce the monetary policy on October 9 as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet during October 7-9.

The announcement by the central bank comes after the government filled the vacancies of three external members in the committee.

"The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled during October 7 to October 9, 2020," RBI said in a statement on Tuesday.

The government on Monday appointed Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide as members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI.

Ashima Goyal is a member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic advisory council. Jayanth Varma is a finance and accounting professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Shashanka Bhide is a senior advisor at the National Council for Applied Economic Research.

## IMF warns against premature withdrawal of policy support

Emerging markets continue to face a precarious situation: IMF MD

**New Delhi:** As economies limp back to normalcy amid the coronavirus pandemic, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has advised countries to avoid premature withdrawal of policy support for businesses and employees.

Speaking at the 125th anniversary of the London School of Economics, the IMF MD noted that healthcare should be the first priority and spending on treatment, testing, and contact tracing is an imper-



Only by defeating the virus everywhere can we secure a full economic recovery anywhere — IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva

ative. So too is stronger international cooperation to coordinate vaccine manufacturing and distribution, especially in the poorest countries, she said, adding that only by defeating the virus everywhere can we se-

cure a full economic recovery anywhere.

Speaking of the policy support to businesses, she said that it is important to provide continued monetary support and liquidity measures to ensure the flow of credit, especially to small- and medium-sized businesses.

"Avoid premature withdrawal of policy support.

Where the pandemic persists, it is critical to maintain lifelines across the economy, to firms and workers such as tax deferrals, credit guarantees, cash transfers, and wage subsidies," Georgieva said.

## ADIA puts ₹5,512 cr in Reliance Retail Ventures

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries Limited and Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) announced on Tuesday that a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will invest Rs 5,512.50 crore into RRVL, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries.

This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.285 lakh crore. ADIA's investment will translate into a 1.20 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis.

With this investment, RRVL has raised Rs 37,710 crore from leading global investors including Silver Lake, KKR, General Atlantic, Mubadala, GIC, TPG



With this investment, RRVL has raised Rs 37,710 crore from leading global investors

and ADIA in less than four weeks.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, said, "We are delighted with ADIA's current investment and continued support and hope to benefit from its strong track record of over four decades of value creation globally. The investment by

ADIA is a further endorsement of Reliance Retail's performance and potential and the inclusive and transformational New Commerce business model that it is rolling out."

Hamad Shahwan Aldaheri, Executive Director of the Private Equities Department at ADIA, said, "Reliance Retail has rapidly established itself as one of the leading retail businesses in India and, by leveraging both its physical and digital supply chains, is strongly positioned for further growth. This investment is consistent with our strategy of investing in market leading businesses in Asia linked to the region's consumption-driven growth and rapid technological advancement."



# Keshavapuram reservoir will slake Hyd's thirst till 2050: KTR

- MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao informs that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will lay the foundation for the project shortly
- Govt to construct more sewage treatment plants to stop discharging waste into lakes and other clean water bodies

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao on Tuesday stated that the Keshavapuram reservoir would provide continuous water supply to Hyderabad city until 2050. The Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, would lay the foundation for the project shortly, he informed.

The Minister reviewed the progress of the project works with Hyderabad Met-



Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao reviewing the progress of the project works with Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) officials in Hyderabad on Tuesday

ropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) officials in Hyderabad. He said that acquisition of 1,490 acres for construction of the reservoir was almost complete and once the reservoir was constructed, there would be no drinking water crisis in Hyderabad till 2050. He said that the Chief Minister had directed to construct an exclusive reservoir to meet the drinking water needs of the city.

During the meeting, KT Rama Rao directed the officials to intensify efforts to obtain the second phase permissions from the forest department as already the preliminary permissions were obtained.

He said that it was the Chief Minister KCR's vision to have an exclusive reservoir for Hyderabad and ensure there were no drinking water issues in the city on a long-term basis.

The Minister announced that sewerage treatment capacity would be enhanced in the city.

The State government was focusing on clean water bodies and zero discharge of waste into the lakes by constructing more sewage treatment plants. Currently, about 770 millions of litres per day (MLD) of sewage was being treated in the city and this capacity would be increased by additional 1,200 MLD capacity, he said.

"With the current capacity of sewage treatment, Hyderabad is already in the top position compared to other metro cities in the country. However, another 1,200 STPs would be constructed in addition to the existing ones," the Minister said.

The Minister also instructed the water board officials to compile a report on the requirement of new STPs as per the Hyderabad master plan and submit the same to the government in a week.

## Online shopping booms in times of pandemic

Groceries, vegetables and fruits, chicken, mutton and sea food are delivered through third-party apps and delivery teams

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

**Hyderabad:** The corona pandemic has brought in new challenges to the business and trade circles all over and pushed them to adopt new measures to keep the business and sales afloat. Traders in GHMC limits are no exception to this. Supermarkets and grocery stores, vegetable and fruit shops, meat shops added a new dimension in last few months. With people rarely stepping out of their houses, store and shop owners took to online selling apart from doing regular sales to customers visiting their shops.

Noted brands like Big Basket, Grofers, Licious etc do online sales through mobile apps and websites. But population of the State capital is so big and huge that stores into this business have also decided to add online deliveries in their profile.

Vijay Agarwal whose family operates Ghanashyam Super Market that has eight stores in various parts of twin-cities, stated that on-



line deliveries so far were done through third-party apps and also through WhatsApp messages. Some people opted this mode to buy monthly needs, while others dropped down in person to buy their requirements, he said.

It may be mentioned here that food delivery apps like Swiggy and Zomato had tied up with these stores to deliver groceries, vegetables and fruits, meat (mutton, chicken, seafood) to customers.

Big names in this sector like Spencers, Spar, Reliance Fresh etc also started online deliveries through their own dedicated mobile apps and websites that picked

up momentum in last few months.

D Ram Reddy, Managing Director of Sneha Farms that has retail chicken outlets, stated that meat shops added online deliveries for the sake and convenience of customers. However, when it comes to buying non-vegetarian items, people mostly prefer to visit the meat shop in person and buy the required quantity, he said.

Traders expect that both online and offline sales would continue until normalcy is restored. But once corona vaccine comes, people would show interest to visit in person and buy their monthly groceries.

## Woman's suicide bid on HC premises foiled

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

**Hyderabad:** On Tuesday afternoon, a woman, Bommaraveni Kavitha, from Godavari Khani, Peddapalli district attempted to commit suicide on the premises of Telangana High Court. However, her attempt was foiled by the security personnel stationed on the HC premises. Kavitha had tried to end her life out of frustration by jumping from the first floor of the court building for not getting a verdict in a case that had been pending for several days. The High Court security personnel who saw her attempt had stopped her from doing so.

On April 11, 2020, she com-



plained at the local police station in Godavari Khani against a man, Murali, who allegedly exploited her sexually and went back on the promise of marriage. As the case has been pending, the depressed woman attempted suicide on the HC premises.

## Durgam Cheruvu gets boating facility, floating restaurant

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud inaugurated the boating facility and floating restaurant at Durgam Cheruvu on Tuesday.

The Tourism Minister along with Education Minister P Sabita Indra Reddy, MP G Ranjeeth Reddy and MLA A Gandhi inaugurated the facilities. He said that as per the direction of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, the Tourism Corporation was developing the sector in the State. Stating that there were

many tourist places in the State, he said the aim of the government was to make the State a hub for historical and heritage sites, vast eco parks, tribal, temple, Buddhist sites and also medical tourism.

Srinivas Goud said that many tourist places were getting developed at the irrigation project sites. Already, there were tourist sites at Laknavaram, Somasila, Bhuddavanam in Nagarjunasagar, KCR Eco-tourism park in Mahabubnagar, Anantagiri Hills and other places.



## PG students say ODs not being issued by pvt colleges

**Hyderabad:** Post-graduate medicos from 2017-20 batch who passed out recently have approached the government alleging that private medical colleges are not releasing original certificates citing fee hike row that is pending in High Court. A delegation from Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association called on Health Secretary SAM Rizvi and brought this issue to his notice. According to doctors, Rizvi assured them that he would take up the issue with Kaloji University VC and ensure medicos get the original certificates so, that they can pursue higher studies or take up the practice.

## Film actress & MP Navneet Kaur accepts Green India Challenge



HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Green India Challenge launched by TRS General Secretary and MP J Santosh Kumar is drawing huge response. Popular film actress and Amaravathi Lok Sabha MP (from Maharashtra) Navneet Kaur on Tuesday planted saplings at her residence. She stated that it gave her immense pleasure in

participating in Green India Challenges initiated by her Parliament colleague Santosh. The Lok Sabha MP said the challenge is bringing awareness among people on environmental issues and she wanted to support the team in carrying forward this novel initiative. She requested all the people to participate and carry forward the Green India Challenge.

## No food stalls at RTC bus stands to quench passengers' hunger pangs

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The passengers travelling in the long distance RTC buses have to carry snacks if not meals as the canteens and shops on depots premises are closed down leading to inconvenience to the passengers.

Significantly, The TSRTC has started long-distance inter-state buses towards Maharashtra and Karnataka (except Bengaluru) from September 28. The buses are going beyond 300 km but the passengers are made to starve because of the non-availability of canteens in the depots. Apart from the canteen, there are no snacks shops in the depots and buses are being halted for a few minutes.

With the buses limited to the depots for a long time because of the nationwide lockdown imposed in the country, the canteen and stall owners had to face losses and they decided to close down the shops in the depots. Though the buses were started, the shops still remained closed because of



low patronage and very lesser number of buses.

The passengers had to face difficulties especially those travelling with children had to beg the driver/conductor to stop the bus for snacks. S Narasimha, a private employee travelling to Udgir in Maharashtra had to request the conductor to stop the bus for some snacks for his children. The conductor advised Narasimha to get down when the bus reaches the depot and get eatables from shops outside the depot. The conductors are cautious not to stop the buses

on private dhabas in wake of the spread of Corona but the passengers want the RTC officials to look into the issue.

The officials said that this issue had come to their notice. "The buses have started but the shops are closed. The shop owners are saying that they are incurring losses hence they are keeping them closed," said a senior official.

The official said that the depot managers will be given instructions to start the canteens and stalls so that there is no inconvenience, the official said.

## Seized ₹ 40 lakh belongs to BJP leader: Police

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Special Operations Team (SOT) of Cyberabad police along with Shamirpet police on Monday night intercepted two vehicles near Outer Ring Road (ORR) and seized Rs. 40 lakhs from the possession of four persons. As it was being speculated that the money was being taken to distribute it to the voters of Dubbaka wherein a by-election is scheduled on November 3. Balanagar DCP Padmaja Reddy said that the preliminary investigations revealed that a seized amount of Rs. 40 lakh belonged to Raghu-nandan Rao, the BJP leader.

"We received intelligence about the money being transported, so we installed a checkpoint near the ORR. However, after a while a car which was moving in our direction stopped and the driver turned the vehicle. Another car which was fol-

lowing the first car also took a turn. Suspecting some foul play our officers chased both the cars and after going a certain distance one person got down from the car and started running," the police official said.

"He was chased by our officers and the cars were also followed and after chasing for a distance both the cars were stopped and the persons were detained for questioning. Initially they did not say anything about the money, but upon further investigation it was revealed that the money belonged to the BJP leader and they were instructed to hand it over to an anonymous person. However, all the persons were arrested and they were handed over to the Income Tax department along with the seized money. The IT department will further work on the case and trace out the source of the money," added the officer.

## Four arrested for kidnapping businessman

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Saroornagar police on Tuesday arrested four persons for kidnapping a businessman on Monday. The accused were identified as, Raj Bhushan (Mastermind of the conspiracy) and is currently absconding), Sunil Patil, Abdul Azeez, Nikhil Singh and Burri Rajesh (all four arrested).

According to police, the mastermind of the kidnap Raj Bhushan is a businessman and is into the business of purchasing maize from farmers at Korutla and supplying the same to the victim Nagabhushan, who in turn, sells it to poultry farmers in the name and style of Shiva Balaji

Traders at Green Park Colony in Saroornagar.

The victim Nagabhushan owed Rs 2.80 crore to Raj Bhushan and due to financial problems, he delayed the payment which further led to the restlessness of the mastermind. So, in a bid to get back his money, he hatched a conspiracy to kidnap Nagabhushan and for this purpose he hired one Abdul Azeez, a rowdy-sheeter of Korutala, and offered him Rs 10 lakh to kidnap the victim, said Mahesh Bhagwat, Rachakonda police commissioner.

He said, "On Monday the accused and his family came to Nagabhushan's residence in Saroornagar and picked up a quarrel and the four kidnappers who were

waiting outside the residence of victim pounced on him and kidnapped in few minutes. Even before anyone could realise what was happening the victim was kidnapped." "However, the family members of the victim filed a police complaint and based on the complaint we alerted the district police stations and with the help of Jagitlal police the four kidnappers were arrested. But, the mastermind of the entire conspiracy is still absconding and for this reason special teams have been formed to nab him at the earliest," stated the officer.

All the accused were arrested u/s 448, 364, 364(A) of IPC r/w 120 (B) of IPC and will be remanded to judicial custody.

## Cong complains to EC against Minister Talasani

**Hyderabad:** The TPCC's Election Coordination Committee (ECC) on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Chief Election Commission and Chief Electoral Officer (Telangana) over 'misuse' of government office by Minister for Animal Husbandry, Talasani Srinivas Yadav. Following reports of him appeared in newspapers asking party leaders to enroll graduates for MLC (Graduate) Elections by conducting teleconference from his office, Congress decided to take up the matter with the Election Commission. In his complaint addressed to Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner and Shashank Goel, Chief Electoral Officer, the convenor of ECC, G Niranjan pointed out that the Minister on October 5 conducted a teleconference with his party legislators and leaders for the enrolment of graduates for the ensuing Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar graduate constituency polls, from his office in Masabtank.

## Govt mulls proposals to eradicate poverty among SC/STs

Social Welfare department to submit a report with five to six proposals for taking steps to eradicate poverty among SC/STs to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Social Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar on Tuesday said that the department would submit a report with five to six proposals for taking steps to eradicate poverty among the weaker sections like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

The Social Welfare Minister along with Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavati Rathore reviewed the steps taken by the government for the betterment of SCs and STs at Sankshema Bhavan on Tuesday. Eshwar said that the meeting was organised as a

follow-up to a meeting of SC and ST MLAs on the Assembly premises on the instructions of the Chief Minister. The CM wanted the members to give a report on what needs to be done to eradicate poverty in the weaker sections like SCs and STs. The Minister said that the State government was continuing the welfare and development activities in the State even during the corona crisis. He said that the Chief Minister had directed him to come to him with proposals. As part of this, the Minister asked the officials to prepare a comprehensive report with five to six proposals. He said that the population of SCs

and STs was 65 per cent and 90 per cent respectively and people under these sections were poor. The Minister asked the officials to come up with proposals with regard to providing basic amenities, better medical facilities, drinking water, etc. He said that the Hyderabad Study Circle would be made a model in the country and also proposed to have such study circles in every district.

Satyavati Rathore said that eradication of poverty in the SC/STs was possible only through education. She urged the authorities to formulate proposals on the need to further strengthen the Gurukulams.



## FRENCH OPEN

DJOKOVIC, TSITSIPAS  
ADVANCE TO QUARTERS

**Paris (IANS):** World number one Novak Djokovic has entered the quarterfinals of the French Open, defeating 15th seed Karen Khachanov of Russia in his fourth-round contest.

On Monday, Djokovic defeated 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 over the Russian 15th seed in a match that lasted for two hours and 23 minutes on Court Philippe-Chatrier. He will now face No.17 seed CarrenoBusta in his last eight encounter.

Meanwhile, StefanosTsitsipas became the first Greek player in history to reach the quarter-finals at the Roland Garros, defeating GrigorDimitrov 6-3, 7-6(9), 6-2. He will next lock horns with AndreyRublev, who had the upper hand against him in their Hamburg final just eight days ago. "It is very important for me to take this opportunity and fight harder this time, maybe do something better," said Tsitsipas, who also fell to the Russian No.13 seed at the US Open last year.

In other men's singles quarterfinal matches, Rafael Nadal will face Jannik Sinner of Italy while Dominic Thiem will be competing against 12th seed Diego Schwartzman.

#### Kenin in last 8 at Roland Garros for 1st time

Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin turned things around at the French Open



after a poor opening set to reach the quarter-finals at Roland Garros for the first time.

The No. 4-seeded Kenin beat the 49th-ranked Fiona Ferro 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 at Court Philippe Chatrier. Ferro was the last French man or woman still around in singles.

Chair umpire MarijanaVeljovic warned Kenin's father, Alexander, for coaching, which is not allowed during Grand Slam matches. Alexander Kenin had changed seats during the match to be right next to Ferro's coach, Emmanuel Planque, who

was closer to the court.

Kenin upset Serena Williams at last year's French Open en route to making it to the fourth round. But until now, the 21-year-old American had never been to the quarterfinals at any clay-court tournament.

She won her first Grand Slam title at Melbourne Park at the start of this season and now is 14-1 at major tournaments in 2020.

**Kvitovaends 8-year quarters drought**  
Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra



Kvitova reached the French Open quarter-finals for the first time in eight years by beating Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-4.

The seventh-seeded Czech player lost her only semifinal match at Roland Garros in 2012.

Zhang had a medical timeout while trailing 5-2 in the first set. Kvitova sat waiting wrapped in a pink coat to combat the chilly conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier. She then did some leg exercises to keep warm.

The 30-year-old Kvitova will next face Laura Siegemund. The unseeded German beat Paula Badosa 7-5, 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals at a major tournament for the first time.



## We're confident of winning a medal in Tokyo: Akashdeep

**Bengaluru (IANS):** Forward Akashdeep Singh believes that the Indian men's hockey team is determined to win a medal in Tokyo Olympics slated to be held next year.

"Our team has done well against top sides in the recent past and therefore we are confident that we can win a medal for India at the Olympics. We just have to focus on our processes and then the desired results will follow," said Akashdeep.

"All our bases are covered and we are determined to make history in Tokyo. It's about going on the pitch with belief and we will be able to achieve anything," he added. The team has achieved tremendous success since June 2019. They won the FIH Men's Series Finals and then went on to book a place in the Tokyo Games through the FIH Olympic Qualifiers last year. The national side also competed well against top sides such as Belgium,

Netherlands and Australia in the FIH Pro League earlier this year. Akashdeep expressed that world-class facilities and stadiums make a big difference to a team's performances.

"We have certainly worked hard to record good wins in the recent past. However, we would not have been able to raise our game without the world-class facilities and stadiums provided to us by Hockey India and Sports Authority of India," he said.

Akashdeep further pointed out that spotting and nurturing of talent across the country has been a big boost for the national side.

"We have had some young talents such as Rajkumar Pal and VivekSagar Prasad join our team in the last few years. Our team has a great balance of experienced players and new talents, which is the perfect blend for being successful in competitions," said the 25-year-old.

## Kohli critical of his fielders, bowlers after RCB's loss

**Dubai (IANS):** Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper ViratKohli blamed his fielders and bowlers for allowing Delhi Capitals to post a big total after his team's 59-run defeat in an IPL match here on Monday.

The India skipper witnessed his key leg-spinner YuzvendraChahal drop Marcus Stoinis a couple of times. Stoinis cashed in on it and scored a half-century that saw Delhi Capitals post a massive 196/4 wkts in 20 overs.

"Those important chances in between we need to grab when the opportunity comes our way, it is not like we are dropping half chances; we are dropping sitters and those things hurt you. The execution with the ball towards the end could have been better and with the bat as well. Not a complete performance in any regard today," said Kohli.



Kohli felt his team got back into the match in the middle overs.

"I think they got off to a great start in the first six then we pulled it back in the next eight overs and the last phase again got away from us," he said.

RCB seem short on players who can contribute with both bat and ball, and that has led to a problem. But Kohli feels the return of Chris Morris will boost the side for the next match. "Chris was really close to

playing today as well but couldn't make it. We have four days to the next game. Once he comes back into the squad it is a different balance altogether."

#### Today's match

**Kolkata Knight Riders vs Chennai Super Kings at 7.30pm**

## Afghan batsman Tarakai succumbs after road accident

**Kabul (IANS):** Afghanistan batsman Najeeb Tarakai passed away on Tuesday after being involved in a fatal road accident last week. He was 29.

"ACB and Afghanistan cricket loving nation mourns the heart breaking and grievous loss of its aggressive opening batsman & a very fine human being NajeebTarakai who lost his life to tragic traffic accident leaving us all shocked! May Allah shower His Mercy on him," Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed the news on their Twitter handle.

On October 2, Najeeb was hit by a speeding car while crossing a road in Eastern Nangarhar in Jalalabad and was in critical condition since then.

"National player NajeebTarakai was severely injured in a car accident yesterday and is in critical condition even after an operation last night. ACB has so far taken all necessary steps to facilitate his recovery in Nangarhar where he is under treatment currently," ACB had tweeted on October 3.

The ACB was in regular contact with relevant authorities to assess his health condition and was even ready to shift him to Kabul or outside Afghanistan as soon as possible whenever allowed by health officials.

The right-handed batsman made his international debut in 2014 against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup. He also played 12 T20Is for Afghanistan in which he scored 258 runs. He also represented the country in one ODI against Ireland at the Greater Noida Sports Complex Ground on March 24, 2017.



## DC captain Iyer's strategy proves effective, surprises RCB

**Dubai (IANS):** Delhi Capitals' skipper ShreyasIyer on Monday surprised Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) as they chased 196/4 by pulling out his ace speedster KagisoRabada after just one over and bringing in spinners R Ashwin and Axar Patel for the third and fourth overs of the innings.

The RCB batsmen, it seemed, were not prepared for this move. The result was that openers DevduttPadikkal and Aaron Finch returned to the pavilion.

The move resulted in a wicket in each of those two overs -- with Ashwin removing Padikkal and Axar getting rid of Finch -- as RCB could never recover from there. They were restricted to 137/9 in 20 overs. Rabada later said he would have loved to continue bowling but he was fine with the decision as it eventually worked out.

"It was swinging a bit, so it would have been nice to bowl the second over. I don't think it was a bad call to take me off after the first over. At the

end of the day it worked out," he said.

"I think if you want to be the best you have to adjust to the conditions. I think the spinners did a really good job today. They set up the game for us in the powerplay. Axar and Ashwin actually won us the game," said the South African.

Delhi Capitals suffered a blow when Amit Mishra was ruled out of the tournament on Monday with a finger injury. However, both Axar and Ashwin stepped up to the plate leaving their skipper

happy.

"It is saddening when a senior player (Mishra) who was doing amazingly well gets injured, but we have got good replacements as well," said Iyer. Axar, who was declared Man-of-the-Match for his bowling performance, said he had prepared himself to bowl in the powerplay.

"I knew it was stopping on the wicket. I knew I would bowl in the powerplay and I had practiced for it as well. I think I executed my plans really well."

**KT residency**

**KAPIL PROPERTIES**

**"A premium Co-Living Space"**

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER  
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by **ITS RERA** | Approved No. PO2400001598

**SAFE**

**Earn extra sft\***

**AFFORDABLE**

**9% to 11% Returns**

**NO MAINTENANCE**

**Assured rental income for 20years**

**+91 95337 76694**

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

## 'Team India should go ahead with Pant as Dhoni's replacement'

**Dubai (IANS):** Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar believes Rishabh Pant is a perfect replacement for MS Dhoni in the national side as the left-handed wicketkeeper-batsman provides Team India with a much-needed balance in the middle order, which is full of right-handers.

Pant has been in good form in the ongoing Indian Premier League, scoring 171 runs in the five matches he has played for the Delhi Capitals.

"In terms of wicket-keeping, I think it would be Rishabh Pant. I think the way he started this year's IPL and I think it is very important to have a left-hander as an option because for Team India when it comes to the middle-order as it helps to balance out the right-handers," said Bangar while speaking on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

Meanwhile, former India pacer



**Ashish Nehra also supported Bangar's point of view on**  
Pant and said: "I am in total agreement with Sanjay Bangar. I think they should go ahead with Rishabh Pant. Pant should be backed.

Every player needs to be backed when it comes to international cricket."

Dhoni retired from international cricket in August after representing India in 350 ODIs, 90 Tests and 98 T20Is while affecting a staggering 829 dismissals behind the stumps across formats.

Pant, who has so far played 13 Tests, 16 ODIs and 28 T20Is, was touted as Dhoni's successor but he hasn't been able to put up consistent performances when playing for the national side. He was replaced behind the stumps, in limited-overs formats, in New Zealand by KL Rahul when the Men in Blue last played international cricket.