

Womenia

Unlock your baby's abilities at a young age

Raising Superstars is a self-funded, Mumbai-based startup that promises to awaken the unconscious genius of babies less than 2 years of age, through research backed methods that they have tried and tested on 100s of babies before launching commercially

TEJAL SINHA

Raising Superstars, a unique kind of framework designed to unlock the miraculous abilities in baby's age 0 to 2 years.

The company was conceptualized by real-life couple Raghav and Shraddha Himatsingka about 3 years ago as a framework and system for their own baby, but it quickly took the shape of a full-fledged edtech entrepreneurial venture in August 2020.

We know that every baby born in this world is born with infinite potential. This means that at birth, they have more talent than any other person who has ever lived on planet earth, whether it's Einstein, or Federer, or Picasso, da Vinci, etc. However, this talent gets quickly thrown out by the brain if they are not developed fairly soon. They have spent more

than 2000 hours to develop their proprietary, Prodigy Framework and the Prodigy Baby System that helps parents preserve these incredible abilities in their babies before they turn even 2 years old. The company has served more than 10,000+ babies from 20+ countries since inception and have a mission to serve 1 million babies within the next 3 years.

Shraddha shares, "Modern parenting is hard. It almost always feels like a race. You are always

running around. Taking care of your baby's immediate needs - from diapers, vaccinations, sleep schedules, etc. - to looking out for the next best thing that will give your baby that edge over others. Even though parents are slowly learning to give up on the erstwhile obsession of making every kid into an engineer or a doctor, there is a new urge to discover the baby's own potential and help them succeed in the field of their interest."

There is none of the usual pressures of homework, worksheets and computer screen time. All exercises have to be done in the prescribed manner and are targeted at developing skills such as an eidetic memory, strong math and oratory skills, speed reading, sports prowess, encyclopedic knowledge, creativity, logical thinking, and more.

Since its inception, the company has already catered to thou-

sands of babies and their parents. Although fresh in the market, the duo aims to cater to around 1 million babies worldwide by expanding their existing product portfolio and tap into new markets in the following years.

"I and my husband Raghav did not want our son to face the same learning difficulties as me. Raghav spent more than 2,000 hours studying about learning, growth, and development in babies to create our proprietary Prodigy Framework and the Prodigy Baby System that helps babies reach their fullest potential in all fields of human abilities. When he applied the framework with our own baby, it resulted in miraculous moments every week which led to word getting around about it and the framework slowly germinating into a full-fledged company," adds Shraddha.

The Prodigy Framework and the Prodigy Baby System

The Raising Superstars' Prodigy Framework is a framework that defines the fundamentals of all intelligence in a person. It covers everything from Athleticism (physical abilities), Creativity (arts, drama, creative thinking, music), Intelligence (languages, speech, math, memory, logic, etc.) and Behaviour (personality, character, ethics and morality). The Prodigy Baby System is the world's first step-by-step system that helps parents implement the Prodigy Framework at home for their 0-2 year old baby with just 5 minutes of daily effort. The system is a set of simple 30-second activities, exercises and games that parents do to generate miraculous results and help their child leapfrog into prodigious abilities for life. It is unique in that it only takes 5 minutes every day, it can be done at home by the parents, and it involves no screen time, pressure, or any other kind of stress for the baby.



Raghav and Shraddha Himatsingka

As yet another example of fashion with a cause, international footwear brand Crocs, Inc. has donated 5,000 pairs of shoes to migrant families in Cheeta Camp, Mankhurd, Maharashtra in partnership with CRY and S4S. The donation aims to provide relief to vulnerable families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, by providing

easy-to-clean and comfortable shoes.

The initiative is carried out by Jeevan Dhara, a project supported by CRY, works at the grassroots level and has deep connections to those at Cheeta Camp. The donation brought ease of mind and overall wellbeing during this unprecedented time.

Talking about why such initiatives are crucial at these unprecedented times, Kreeanne Rabadi, Regional Director (west), CRY (Child Rights and You) says, "While all sections of society are facing the brunt of this on going crisis, there are considerably worse issues in the slums. Living in congested homes with narrow alleys, there is no prospect of social distancing leading to higher chance of getting infected and a constant lurking fear of the disease. With children, unable to go to school not only has their education come to a standstill as they do not have access to devices and internet, the threat of child labour and early marriage are very real. With the parents losing livelihoods, the children battle with the increase in violence in their own homes."

She adds "In terms of nutrition and health, what used to be a malnutrition issue is now exacerbated by hunger and starvation and parents not taking the children for regular monitoring and immunizations leading to an increase

TWEET PATROL



SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA
@THESHILPASHETTY

Diwali is right around the corner and I've curated a special gift for my loved ones. Make the perfect choice for this festive season by adding colour to your homes with the Stellar Home bed & bath range.



Five makeup essentials to carry along this festive season

The festive season is here with an exciting line up of events. Undoubtedly, there's a lot to celebrate in the coming weeks. This time of the year, you naturally start to focus more on dressing to impress since it is one of the main elements of a celebration. However, it goes without saying that along with your beautiful outfits, you need the right makeup to complete the look. It wouldn't be fair if you pick the perfect wardrobe but haven't given much thought to your makeup. Doing this can jeopardize your entire look.

Therefore, we have put together a list of five must-have beauty essentials that will help you on your quest to look your best.

Kajal

It's safe to say that Kajal sets the tone for that mesmerizing Indian look. It works like black magic to captivate the attention of anyone who looks your way. After all, how can anyone ignore those slightly smudged smokey eyes? So, don't be afraid to flaunt your dark outlined eyes. All you have to do, is line your waterline lightly for a minimal look and you're good to go.

Mascara

This makeup marvel goes hand in hand with your Kajal. It's essential to add the finishing touch to your eye makeup. You can start by curling your lashes and then give them volume using mascara. Make sure to invest in high-quality mascara to give volume to those lovely lashes.

Eyeliner

To achieve the perfect festive look, eyeliner is a must. Whether you're looking for a minimal look or trying to accentuate the beauty of your eyes by going for a fishtail, winged, thick-winger, or graphic arrow style, eyeliner is an essential part of your vanity box. Since face masks will be an added accessory for social gatherings and events, why not go all-out and let your eyes do the talking.



Lipstick

With a myriad of colours to choose from, it's not going to be difficult to pick one. Although you'll be wearing a mask, don't ignore your lips. Go for a moisturizing lipstick in deep red or something bold. If you are going for a matte lipstick, prep your lips with lip balm to make them look luscious. You'll never know when you get a chance to take your mask off for a selfie.

Lip gloss

Last but certainly not least, lip gloss takes your glamour quotient a notch higher. Winter is almost here and you don't want to let down your gorgeous look with dry chapped lips. Sparkling, youthful, and fuller lips is what a lip gloss renders to your overall appearance.

Be it a small family gathering at home, a party, or any other festive gathering, the correct use of these five minimal-beauty essentials will help you make a style statement on every occasion. Make sure that you use products that are safe on your skin and go for ones that are water-proof, smudge-proof, transfer-proof, and long-lasting. Stay safe! Stay stunning!

Fashion for a cause



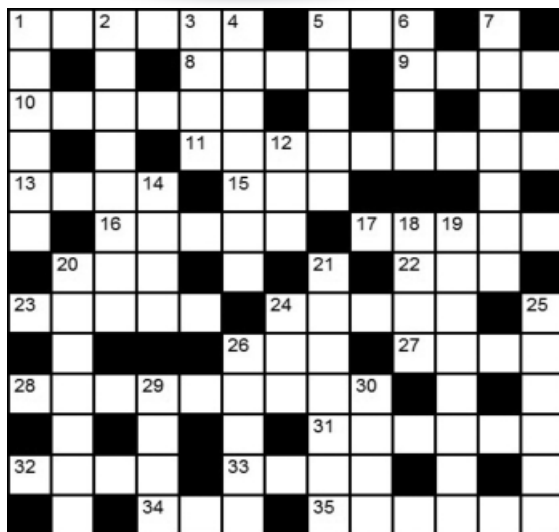
Crocs donation drive with CRY, Children at the Cheeta Camp in Maharashtra can now run about in comfortable footwear and enjoy a little decorating on the side too

in health problems. With these extremely critical circumstances the families are not feeling any cause for hope and are living day to day. An association with Crocs provides the community a ray of hope, while everyone is providing food, the families are using their old footwear some in rather deplorable condition. With the distribution of high quality, all-weather footwear the families are not worried about purchasing shoes. These shoes work wonderfully well to protect the feet walking through the narrow lanes of the slums."

Buddy Teaser, President & CEO, Soles4Souls said "We are thrilled to continue our global partnership with Crocs. Helping to distribute thousands of pairs around the region to more

than a half dozen countries is another great example of how for-profit and not for profit companies can solve business challenges while helping those in need"

Earlier in the year, the brand and Priyanka Chopra Jonas joined forces to support the frontline workers by donating 10,000 pairs of shoes in India and US under the global donation program 'A Free Pair for Healthcare'. Under the program, Crocs has donated over 860,000 shoes across the globe to healthcare professionals. Crocs has always been a brand that encourages everyone to be comfortable in their own shoes. In the face of adversity and the coronavirus pandemic, many individuals needed that support more than ever.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 10

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Edible root (6)
- 5 Centre of a wheel (3)
- 8 Kind of cabbage (4)
- 9 Take it easy (4)
- 10 One of hypocritical affectation (6)
- 11 Like charcoal filter (9)
- 13 Bit of news (4)
- 15 Dampen (3)
- 16 Big name in copiers (5)
- 17 All ____ : confused ? (2,3)
- 20 Masculine pronoun (3)
- 22 Perform (3)
- 23 Bleated like a sheep (5)
- 24 Person irretrievably lost (5)
- 26 Large bird found in Australia (3)
- 27 Citrus fruit (4)
- 28 Heroic bravery (9)
- 31 Heat of mind (6)
- 32 Norse poems (4)
- 33 Eye part (4)
- 34 Colourful Japanese carp (3)
- 35 Moil (6)

Down

- 1 Pod contents (4)
- 2 Positions (4)
- 3 Eyeliner powder (4)
- 5 Cultural destroyer (6)
- 6 Denial - "ton" anagram ? (3)
- 7 An over indulgence (6)
- 9 Cricket sundry (3)
- 11 Brush away (5)
- 12 Book reference (5)
- 15 A kind of swelling (4)
- 16 Sings wordlessly (4)
- 18 Middling (2-2)
- 19 Genuine (4)
- 20 In favour of (3)
- 23 Unjustly assume (5)
- 24 Contour feather (5)
- 25 ____ acid : acid found in vinegar ? (6)
- 26 Burn slightly on the surface (6)
- 28 Merry or happy (3)
- 29 Remove surface layer (4)
- 30 Eye part (4)
- 31 Circular course (4)
- 33 Fore's counterpart (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 10

NEWS ROUNDUP

Kriti Kharbanda on the film that changed her life

Actress Kriti Kharbanda says her 2017 release Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana changed her life. The film had release on this day. Kriti has recalled working on the project in a new Instagram post. She also shared a few stills from the film co-starring Rajkummar Rao.

"This day, 3 years ago, #smza happened, and life changed. A big thank you to the entire team, the audience, the fans, the supporters, the lovers! #3yearsofshaadimeinzaroorana," she captioned the post. Directed by Ratna Sinha, the film revolves around a smalltown couple who meet for a proposed arranged marriage. An unexpected event on their wedding night turns their innocent love story into a revenge saga. Kriti is seen in "Taish", also featuring Pulkit Samrat, Jim Sarbh, Harshvardhan Rane and Sanjeed Sheikh. The Bejoy Nambiar directorial is streaming in film as well as web series formats. A few days ago, Kriti revealed that she was diagnosed with Malaria.

"Hi! This is my malaria wala face. Say hi world:) it's just visiting, not here to stay coz I need to get back to work. To all those who are worried about me, I'm doing better today and hoping for an even better tomorrow :) I feel a little S****y from time to time, but that's okay. This year has taught me patience and self love:) will keep you guys updated! Thank you for your love," she had posted on Friday.



EVMs absolutely robust and tamper-proof: EC

AFTER the ruling NDA took a lead over the opposition Grand Alliance in the poll trends for Bihar on Tuesday, Congress leader Udit Raj raised questions on the reliability of EVMs, asking why the machines cannot be hacked if satellites can be controlled from the earth. But another Congress leader, Karti Chidambaram, said the electronic voting machine (EVM) system is robust, accurate and dependable. "This has always been my view. I stand by it. There have been doubters of the EVM from across political parties, particularly when the results don't go in their favour. Deputy Election Commissioner in-charge of EVMs Sudip Jain told reporters here that the machines are absolutely robust and tamper-proof. "It has been clarified time and again that EVMs are absolutely robust and tamper-proof. Even the Supreme Court has upheld their integrity more than once," he said.



'Sinister' LJP sinks but takes with it JD-U

LOK Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan appeared to be succeeding in damaging Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led party by playing a major role in its poor show in many seats. The LJP, though, have paid a big price in the process, as the Election Commission data till 9.30 pm showed that neither had it won nor was it leading even in a single seat while drawing around over 5.6 per cent of votes. Paswan's party has, however, been instrumental in the JD(U)'s loss in at least 30 seats, as per the latest trends made public by the Election Commission. JD(U) spokesperson K C Tyagi told PTI that a "sinister" campaign was run against Nitish Kumar as part of a "conspiracy". "Apne bhi shamil the aur begane bhi (Our own also harmed us along with the outsiders)," he said, without taking any names.



If BJP lets Nitish become Bihar CM, thank Sena!

THE Shiv Sena on Tuesday said JD-U leader Nitish Kumar should thank it if he retains the post of Bihar chief minister despite his party winning less seats in the Assembly polls than ally BJP as the latest trends indicate. Referring to last year's dramatic turn of events in Maharashtra, which saw the Shiv Sena severing ties with the BJP and forming government with ideological rivals NCP and the Congress, Sena MP Sanjay Raut said his party had shown what happens "when word is not kept" by an alliance partner. "I heard BJP leaders saying in unison (on TV) that only Nitish babu will be the chief minister. Nitish babu should thank Shiv Sena for that. Not keeping promises will not happen in Bihar because the Shiv Sena has shown in Maharashtra what can happen if word is not kept," Raut said.



Staring at bypoll rout in Guj Congress hits out at BJP

AS the BJP appears set to sweep bypolls held on eight assembly seats in Gujarat, the state Congress on Tuesday hit out at the ruling party, saying the outcome is a victory of its policy of using "wrong means like manipulation, money and blackmail" to retain power. The BJP has already won three seats and established a dominant lead over the Congress in the remaining five assembly constituencies. Voting for the bypolls was held on November 3 counting of ballots was taken up on Tuesday. State Congress President Amit Chavda said the party accepted the people's verdict, though it was contrary to its expectation that voters will teach a lesson to the BJP for indulging in "horse-trading and using money power". In the past, the BJP has repeatedly rejected Congress allegations of horse-trading and using money power to achieve political ends.



Scindia emerges as BJP's top leader

NEW DELHI

THE BJP, powered by Jyotiraditya Scindia, took a lead in the Madhya Pradesh bypolls. The BJP in MP was leading in 19 of the 28 Assembly constituencies for which byelections were held while the Congress is ahead in seven seats.

"I am a worker of the BJP I am thankful to the people of the State for giving a clear mandate in favour of the party. Results have proven that Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh are traitors," Scindia told ANI.

He further said that the Congress party's situation would get worse if they kept questioning the credibility of electronic voting machines.

"It has become a habit of Congress to deny the people's mandate by questioning the credibility of EVMs. If they keep doing so, they'll remain in the same place where they are now, or maybe worse," he added.

The 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh fell vacant following Jyotiraditya Scindia's crossover in March, which triggered the fall of the Kamal Nath government and the return of the BJP. "We're not even going to waste a single day.

We'll start working tomorrow on aatmanirbhar MP. It is our duty to work for the people of MP. We accept this win humbly," Chief Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan said. Of the seven UP Assembly seats for which counting progressed on Tuesday, the BJP has managed to retain six, while Samajwadi Party (SP) had one.

In Haryana's Baroda assembly seat, the Congress's Indu Raj Narwal defeated the BJP's Yogeshwar Dutt by 12,300 votes. The BJP and the Congress were both leading on one seat each in Jharkhand, afternoon trends showed on Tuesday. The BJP's Lois Marandi was leading by 3,173 votes over the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate Basant Soren in the Dumka seat. The Congress's Kumar Jaimangal (Anup Singh) is ahead by 11,677 votes of the BJP's Yogeshwar Mahto "Batul" in the Bermo seat.

Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh announced that they have won four out of five Assembly seats in by-elections on Tuesday. Oinam Lukhoi Singh has won from Wangoi, Ginsuanhau from Singhat, Ngamthang Haokip from Saitu and Paonam Brojen Singh from Wangjing Tentha Assembly seats.

SAFFRON SWEEPS



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Dy CMs Dinesh Sharma and Keshav Prasad Maurya, UP BJP President Swatantra Dev Singh and other leaders celebrate the party's win in by-elections, at the party office in Lucknow on Tuesday

Congress wins Chhattisgarh seat

RAIPUR

THE ruling Congress won the Marwahi Assembly bypoll in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, an election official said. Bypoll was necessitated for this seat, reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST), by the death of its MLA and Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) founder Ajit Jogi on May 29. Congress candidate Dr K K Dhruw

won the bypoll to the constituency, located in Gaurala-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) district, by 38,197 votes. He defeated the BJP's Dr Gambheer Singh. Dhruw polled 83,561 votes while Singh secured 45,364 votes, the official said. Voting had been held on November 3 and the turnout was 77.89 per cent. It was for the first time since Ajit Jogi won the Marwahi seat in 2001 that no member of his family was in the fray.

6 properties of Dawood auctioned in Maharashtra

MUMBAI

AT least 6 properties belonging to absconding mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri were auctioned for nearly Rs 23 lakh under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act (SAFEMA), an official said on Tuesday.

The successful bidders include lawyer Ajay Shrivastava who bought two properties and Supreme Court advocate Bhupendra Bhardwaj who picked up four assets in the scheduled online, offline and sealed tender auction held here.

The smooth auction held on Tuesday - coming after a similar one last year - indicated that the Pakistan-based fugitive don is no longer a much-dreaded criminal here.

A majority of the properties are small constructions - some in a bad shape - on plots of land, situated in Mumbai village in Khed sub-district of Ratnagiri, from where the Kaskar family hailed.

"We got excellent response for the auction. The six properties at Ratnagiri have been successfully sold. Four bids were won by Bhardwaj and two others by Shrivastava," a beaming Additional Commissioner, SAFEMA, R.N. D'Souza told media persons post-auction.

According to D'Souza, the bids for two of the properties on the block went much above their reserve prices - Rs 1.89 lakh (sold at Rs 5.35 lakh), and Rs 4.30 lakh (sold for Rs 11.20 lakh) - while the other properties went for the base prices.

One property of the fugitive don originally scheduled to be auctioned, was withdrawn owing to certain technicalities, he added.

However, two flats at Milton Apartments in Mum-



bai's Santacruz west, belonging to former Dawood aide Iqbal Memon alias Iqbal Mirchi, were also put up on auction simultaneously, but despite many enquiries for these prime properties, there were no bids.

Explaining the procedure, D'Souza said that 25 per cent of the bid amount must be deposited within a week, another 25 percent within a month, and the balance within one to three months.

After the complete payment is made, the buyer would be issued a confirmation letter by the SAFEMA finalising the deal.

The competent authority under SAFEMA had planned to auction off all 13 seized properties of the fugitive don early this year, but the plans were postponed in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown.

Celebrating note ban akin to cut cakes on victims' graves: Sena

MUMBAI

IN a caustic attack on the BJP, the Shiv Sena on Tuesday said "celebrating" the fourth anniversary of demonetisation because of which many people "committed suicide" and businesses destroyed, is akin to cutting birthday cakes on their graves. In an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Saamana', the Sena termed the 2016 decision as a "black chapter" in India's history.

It claimed the note ban and the implementation of the GST hit the country's interests hard. "To celebrate (the demonetisation) decision because of which many people embraced deaths...jobs were lost...committed suicides and trades and industries destroyed, is akin to cutting a birthday cake sitting on the graves of all such people," the editorial said.

Speaking on the fourth anniversary of demonetisation of currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 on November 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the move helped reduce black money and gave a boost to transparency. The Sena also said that the BJP raised issues like the construction of Ram temple and death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput in the Bihar Assembly polls, but they failed to click with the people. "But the atmosphere in Bihar changed after (RJD leader) Tejashwi Yadav promised 10 lakh jobs.

Sanskriti varsity organises 'Prarambh'

SANSKRITI University welcomed a new batch of students of 2020 in their respective programmes offered by various schools of the University. With the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the whole world, Sanskriti University embraced this 'new normal' by hosting its orientation programme 'Prarambh' virtually this year. Students and their parents were introduced to the Sanskriti University and were made familiar with the policies, procedures, resources and facilities at the University, the rules and regulations, and Career opportunities for the students by conducting innovative pro-



grammes with industry experts, who shared their knowledge with all new students with diverse career aspirations. Amit Nevatia, Education Program- Lead-Amazon Internet Services, Itfikhhar Drabu- Head ICRC-Nordics, Prof. Cristine Gusmao- Prof. Federal University of Pernambuco, Jatin Sabharwal, CEO, Feaster Venture Pvt. Ltd., Prof. Devendra Narayan- Manager, International Division at Tokyo University of Science were present as guests at the three-day event.

Court reserves order on cops' plea for Arnab's custody

MUMBAI

A sessions court in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Tuesday reserved its decision on the police's plea challenging a magistrate's order denying them custody of Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and two others in an abetment of suicide case. Additional Sessions Judge at Alibaug, R G Malashetti said the court would pass the order on the revision application filed by local police on November 12.

It would also hear bail applications of Goswami and co-accused Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda on the same day, the court said. Goswami was arrested on November 4 from his residence in Mumbai and taken to Alibaug in the case related to the 2018 suicide of interior designer Anvay Naik and Naik's mother.

He and the other two accused were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate who refused police's re-

quest for custody, and sent them in judicial remand till November 18 instead. The police have challenged the order, saying they need the accused' custody for interrogation. The high-profile TV journalist is lodged at Talaja prison in Navi Mumbai. Senior advocate Aabad Ponda, appearing for Goswami, opposed the revision application on Tuesday.

There was only a contractual dispute between Goswami's company and Naik as the work done by Naik was not satisfactory, the lawyer said, adding that 90 per cent of the payment had been made.

It is alleged that Naik took his own life due to the non-payment of dues by the firms of the three accused. "This matter is of contractual dispute which should be decided in a civil court, not in a criminal court," Ponda said. Goswami had given a statement to the police in 2018 and the police then closed the case, he said.

US AG allows prosecutors to probe alleged poll irregularities

Serious allegations should be handled with great care, specious, speculative, fanciful or far fetched claims should not be a basis for initiating federal inquiries, says William Barr

WASHINGTON

US Attorney General William Barr has allowed prosecutors to launch a probe into alleged irregularities in the recently-concluded 2020 presidential election, the media reported on Tuesday.

The development came as President Donald Trump has refused to concede to his Democratic rival and incumbent President-elect Joe Biden, who was projected the winner of the November 3 election after crossing the threshold of 270 electoral college votes needed to secure victory.

In a memo, Barr authorised federal prosecutors

to pursue substantial allegations of voting and vote tabulation irregularities prior to the certification of elections in your jurisdictions in certain cases, as I have already done in specific instances". "Such inquiries and reviews may be conducted if there are clear and apparently credible allegations of irregularities that, if true, could potentially impact the outcome of a federal election in an individual state," he added.

While acknowledging it was imperative that "credible allegations be addressed in a timely and effective manner", Barr noted that it was "equally imperative that Department personnel exercise appropriate cau-

tion and maintain absolute commitment to fairness, neutrality and non-partisanship". "While serious allegations should be handled with great care, specious, speculative, fanciful or far fetched claims should not be a basis for initiating federal inquiries," he added. Barr's announcement prompted the resignation of senior Justice Department official Richard Pilger, who would have overseen such investigations, the BBC reported. "Having familiarised myself with the new policy and its ramifications...I must regretfully resign from my role," he was quoted as saying in an email to colleagues just hours after the announcement.

NASA chief not ready to continue under Biden

NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine has no intention to continue in his current position even if asked by the Joe Biden administration, said a media report.

In an interview to AerospaceDaily, Bridenstine said a new chief of the US space agency under the new administration would be in the best interest of America's space exploration programme.

"The right question here is 'What's in the best interest of NASA as an agency, and what's in the best

interest of America's exploration program?" Bridenstine was quoted as saying in the interview on Sunday. "You need somebody who has a close relationship with the President of the U.S. ... somebody trusted by the administration, including OMB (Office of Management and Budget), National Space Council, National Security Council. I think I would not be the right person for that in a new administration," he said.

When President Donald Trump nominated the former Republican Congressman to lead NASA in 2017, many lawmakers opposed the idea of a politician heading the US space agency.

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Signatureglobal (India) Private Limited is pleased to inform that the Affordable Group Housing Colony situated at Village Naurangpur, Sector-79, Gurugram, Haryana (area 5.9125 Acres) to be developed by M/s Signatureglobal (India) Private Limited, has been accorded with Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Department of Environment, Haryana vide letter no SEIAA(124)/HR/2020/388 dated 03/09/2020 read with Corrigendum via letter no SEIAA(124)/HR/2020/491 dated 30/10/2020. The copies of the clearance letter & Corrigendum are available with the Haryana State Pollution Control Board and can also be seen on their website <http://www.hspcb.gov.in>

Director
For Signatureglobal (India) Private Limited
CIN: U70100DL2000PTC104787
Address: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan,
28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi 110001

Rising demand for gold loans

Gold is precious for Indians, more so for Indian women. Apart from the ornamental value that the shiny yellow metal embodies, it offers instant liquidity when one is in a dire need of financial resources. It's a fact that Covid-19 pandemic has taken a huge financial toll on people as millions have lost their jobs. Many more lost their livelihood. Such people look for a way-out from the financial strains and availing gold loans from organised or unorganised lenders is an easy option for them. This is amply evident in a recent report released by the World Gold Council (WGC).

According to the report titled 'Gold loans help India weather the Covid-19 storm', the outstanding gold loan is likely to go up to Rs 4.05 lakh crore in the current financial year, from Rs 3.45 lakh crore in FY20. The gold loan book is expected to reach Rs 4.61 lakh crore in FY22. Increase in demand for gold loans also pushed up AUMs of the Non-Banking Finance Companies

(NBFCs) that focus on gold loans. A leading gold loan NBFC witnessed 33 per cent surge in its AUM (assets under management) while another NBFC saw 15 per cent jump. A Kerala-based bank also registered 36 per cent upswing in its AUM year-on-year.

However, there are multiple factors for the increased demand for gold loans. Apart from the pandemic-induced personal financial hardships cited above, rise in gold prices also led to an increase in gold loan portfolios. Domestic gold prices went by 28.8 per cent till date this year. That means borrowers are able to avail more loan amount for the same quantity of gold. The WBC report also revealed that more people opted for gold loans instead of outright selling of the yellow metal.

Besides, banks and NBFCs are also aggressively promoting gold loans as risk is minimal and non-performing assets (NPAs), a bane for the banking sector,

are very low in this segment. As Somasundaram PR, Managing Director-India, World Gold Council, pointed out, small businesses use gold loans as pillar of support when tide turns against them and business slows down. They borrow short-term loans using gold as collateral and run the show. As is evident from the available data, small businesses took a major hit during the ongoing pandemic. Obviously, this segment also generated more demand for gold loans as small businesses lack collateral required to avail other bank loans.

Nevertheless, rising demand for gold loans signals an increase in financial distress in the society due to the economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic. This trend may continue if the second Covid wave hits the country, further crippling the economy. The situation may not improve unless the country's economy comes back on a growth track. That can only happen if the governments initiate concerted efforts to boost growth. Until that happens, more and more Indians will knock at the doors of banks and NBFCs to avail gold loans. That's a bad omen, isn't it?

Congress needs new revival plan for elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The message from the results of the Bihar Assembly elections and the bypolls in different states coming to the fore now is clear -- the Congress has to come out with a new plan to go to the electorate, as the general trends of the results show that the grand old party has to do much more to counter the BJP.

Despite all the factors favouring the Grand Alliance in Bihar, the Congress is unlikely to repeat its 2015 numbers in the state as per the trends coming in.

In Madhya Pradesh bypolls too, the Congress has fared poorly with the party failing to return to power.

Similarly, the party failed to live up to the expectations in the bypolls in most other states, barring in Haryana where the Congress has won the lone seat in Baroda in Sonapat district, though analysts feel that it is more of a personal victory for party strongman and former Chief Minister of Haryana, Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

The Congress in Bihar fared badly as despite contesting 70 seats, it could not add to the strength of the Grand Alliance. Party insiders say that the Congress needs course correction in taking on the BJP.

It needs to be mentioned here that the dissent group within the Congress had recently written to interim Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, demanding sweeping reforms in the party.

The Congress leaders responsible for the elections in Bihar are silent on the issue of electoral loss, and the spokespersons were left to defend the party post the loss. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi campaigned for four days in Bihar, but could not rally the support behind the party candidates.

Some leaders say that lack of coordination and arrogance on the part of the Grand Alliance led to the defeat, as had the RJD not alienated the smaller groups in the alliance, the Mahagathbandhan could have increased its numbers.

Due to stiff resistance by the RJD on the seat sharing formula, the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP), the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) left the alliance and have eaten into the opposition votes by giving edge to the NDA, said a Congress leader who did not wish to be named.

Some Congress insiders feel that contesting 70 seats was a bad decision as the party did not have good candidates in the state.

When RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav was announcing the seat sharing formula in Patna, the VIP had staged a walk out and was later adjusted by the BJP. The smaller parties could have added to the strength of the Grand Alliance.

INDIAN KIDS AMONG ILLUSTRATORS

Rowling weaves believable fairytale for all ages

VISHNU MAKHLJANI

J.K. Rowling, the creator of the phenomenal "Harry Potter" series has made history of sorts in the literary world by not only presenting a wondrous and absolutely believable fairytale with her latest offering, "The Ickabog", but also by firing the imagination of young readers worldwide with 18,000 responses to a competition (for the seven-to-12 age-group) to illustrate the book.

Eight Indian children are among the 34 from five countries who made the final cut for the book, released on Tuesday. Not only have these tweens made their debut on the international stage but are bound to strive for greater heights and also inspire their peers to emulate them whenever given the chance.

The Indian winners are Aron, Indrashis, Aria (all aged seven), Meghashree, Divyanshi (eight), Radhya (nine), Divymaan (10) and Sai Prasad (11) and are naturally quite ecstatic. Their surnames and cities of residence were not revealed as this is not permissible in respect of minors under British laws, the publisher, Hachette Children's Group, said. "The only good news during this lockdown", "Thanks to the almighty", "an adorable moment", "boom", "motivated and encouraged" is how some of them reacted (See Box). The other winners are from the UK (12), Australia (six), New Zealand and Ireland (four each).

To get back to the book: Remember what mothers across India told their children way back in the 1970s in the wake of the blockbuster "Sholay"? "Jaldi so jao nahin to Gabar uthake le jayga" (Go to sleep or Gabar will come and snatch you away)

A variation of this is the theme for "The Ickabog", which is essentially aimed at tweens but which will also appeal to older children and, for that matter, even adults, as it deftly weaves the present day dog-eat-dog global scenario into lessons in morality - for instance, lies don't become the truth even the 10th time they are related and that there are no shortcuts to success.

There's a rather interesting story behind this book - which proves another adage - that there's a time and place for everything.

The idea for "The Ickabog" - the word derives from "Ichabod", meaning "no glory" or "the glory has departed", and this will become clear once you've read the story - came to Rowling while she was still writing Harry Potter. She wrote most of a first draft in fits and starts between Potter books, intending to publish it after "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" the final novel of the series.

"I read the story aloud to my two youngest children when they were very small, but I never finished it, much to the frustration of (daughter) MacKenzie, whose favourite story it was. After I finished the Harry Potter books, I took a five-year break and when I decided not to publish a children's book next, "The Ickabog" went up in the attic, still unfinished.

"There it stayed for over a decade, and there it would probably be still if the Covid-19 pandemic hadn't happened and millions of children hadn't been stuck at home, unable to attend school or meet their friends. That's when I had the idea of putting the story online for free and asking children to illustrate it," Rowling writes in the Foreword.

"Down from the attic came the very dusty box of typed and hand-written papers and I set to work. My now teenagers, who'd been 'The Ickabog's' first audience, sat and listened to a nightly chapter once I'd nearly finished. Every now and then they'd ask why I had cut something they used to like, and naturally, I reinstated everything they missed, astounded by how much they remembered," Rowling adds.

Beginning May 26, the first two chapters were posted on a dedicated website, www.theickabog.com, with 34 daily instalments appearing in total, each weekday, up until July 10 - the competition for illustrations being simultaneously announced.

The response might have been staggering but was not surprising, given there's much to tickle the imagination and get the creative juices flowing when you're dealing with a mythical monster, a kingdom in peril and an adventure that will test to the limit the bravery of four children as they overcome of machinations of a crooked cast of characters whose evil ways eventually come unstuck as the power of hope and friendship triumphs against all odds.

"The Ickabog" is set in the kingdom of Cornucopia that was once the happiest in the world. It had plenty of gold, a king with the finest moustaches you could possibly imagine, and butchers, bakers and cheesemongers whose exquisite foods made a person dance with delight when they ate them. Everything was perfect - except for the misty Marshlands to the north which, according to legend, were home to the monstrous Ickabog. Anyone sensible knew that the Ickabog was just a myth, to scare children into behaving. But the funny thing about myths is that sometimes they take on a life of their own. Could a myth unseat a beloved king? Could a myth bring a once happy country to its knees? Could a myth thrust the four children into an adventure they didn't ask for and never expected?

It's a jolly good read right up to the final denouement and as you immerse yourself in the book, you will in all likelihood be struck with a sense of déjà vu of what is happening in the world around you and this is what makes the tale so believable.

Trouble brewing over the Middle Kingdom

CLAUDE ARPI

The Fifth Plenum of the 19th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was held between October 26 and 29 at Beijing's Jingxi Hotel; if one is to believe the Xinhua statement, China is doing very well.

A message the CCP wanted to convey: The 360 or so attendees wore no masks, an indication of confidence to show that the Middle Kingdom has tamed the homemade Covid-19.

One of the outcomes of the Plenum is that Xi Jinping vowed to build a fully modern army by 2027.

"The four-day plenum in Beijing wraps up with a statement that says it has entered a period of 'strategic opportunity' for development," said the South China Morning Post, while plans for next 15 years "highlight key role for technological development and importance of boosting domestic markets."

Despite the usual rhetoric, mainly directed to the internal audience, one could ask what has President Xi Jinping achieved by hiding for weeks the spread of the deadly virus which originated in Wuhan and later by sending the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to grab Indian land in Ladakh.

To understand better, let us answer a few questions, including about the logic of the Chinese armed intervention in Ladakh. Will India's strategic road Darbuk-Shyok-DBO Road, which seems to have greatly bothered the generals in the Western Theater Command in Chengdu, be stopped? The answer is 'no'; it will soon be completed allowing the Indian Army to bring reinforcement in a much shorter time to these remote areas.

Has the Chinese attack forced Delhi to drop its claim on Gilgit-Baltistan being India's territory? No. Will Gen Zhao Zongqi, the big PLA boss who already was responsible for the Doklam episode in 2017, be rewarded by a seat in the over-powerful Central Military Commission? It is now extremely doubtful as Zhao has not achieved anything militarily, especially after the Tibetan/Indian commandos occupied the ridges South of the Pangong tso (lake).

Has the PLA gained any meaningful strategic advantages in Ladakh since May? Perhaps minimally in Depsang and in the Fingers area, but it is balanced by losses in South Pangong Tso.

India has been the target of an intense Information Warfare's firing by the specialized agencies in China, particularly the United Front Work Department; this has worked to some extent, with some Indian publications faithfully reporting the Communist version of the events, in exchange for some advertisements in their newspapers, but over-all it is limited and the Indian public has not been intimidated, on the contrary; President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan, has now become one the favorite Heads of State of the Indian public, due to China's aggressive tactics.



Despite the usual rhetoric, mainly directed to the internal audience, one could ask what has President Xi Jinping achieved by hiding for weeks the spread of the deadly virus which originated in Wuhan and later by sending the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to grab Indian land in Ladakh.

To understand better, let us answer a few questions, including about the logic of the Chinese armed intervention in Ladakh. Will India's strategic road Darbuk-Shyok-DBO Road, which seems to have greatly bothered the generals in the Western Theater Command in Chengdu, be stopped?

The answer is 'no'; it will soon be completed allowing the Indian Army to bring reinforcement in a much shorter time to these remote areas.

Has Chairman Xi's prestige been enhanced in India and elsewhere in the world? Not at all, once again on the contrary; in India, Xi has lost the goodwill earned after his encounters with Prime Minister Modi, i.e. the Wuhan Consensus and the Chennai Connect. There will be no such meetings for years to come.

Has the prestige of PLA, as a fighting Army, grown? Certainly not; despite its might (on paper at least), the PLA was unable to grab significant Indian territory.

Recently the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan think-tank working on issues and trends shaping the world, conducted a public opinion on China with 14 countries. It found that unfavorable views of China reach historic highs in most of the countries surveyed: "A majority in each of the surveyed countries has an unfavorable opinion of China. And in Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, South Korea, Spain and Canada, negative views have reached their highest points since the Center began polling on this topic more than a decade ago."

One can only conclude that the trend will continue with the belligerent attitude shown during the Fifth Plenum prevailing.

Has China made economic gains during the last one year? Again no; many flagship companies such as Huawei, the giant telecom company, are in difficulties in most Western countries; it is a question of time that its 5G services will also be banned in India.

It is clear that Xi Jinping has lost face all-over, with the exception of 'sponsored' nations like Pakistan.

The situation is so bad that Beijing does have much alternative to come out the self-created imbroglio; the Party is caught in a vicious circle, with the only way out being more repression towards Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Uyghurs or the Tibetans, or sponsoring rogue states.

Interestingly, for many Taiwan has become a model of a Chinese democratic system, which everyone hopes will one day be adopted in the Mainland.

Further, Xi Jinping's main achievement has been to unite many nations against China.

After the last meeting of the Quad which

took place on October 7 in Tokyo, Principal Deputy Spokesperson Cate Brown stated that the foreign ministers of US, Japan, Australia and India had reaffirmed their collective efforts towards a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific: "they pledged to continue regular consultations to implement their vision of a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

Nations like France have already shown their interest to join.

More recently, the third India-US 2+2 Dialogue took place in Delhi. Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar observed: "The performance of our relationship in the last few years has been exceptionally positive. Political consultations and co-operation have grown, defence exchanges and trade too, economic interactions and commerce are up, the partnership in science, technology and innovation is stronger and our energy security clearly enhanced."

There are more examples of positive developments triggered by China's hegemonic attitude.

According to a report of the Yomiuri Shimbun, it was announced on October 30 that "the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force was planning to hold a large-scale exercise of 140,000 people next year; almost all Japanese troops will participate in response to the 'Taiwan affair' (Beijing's attitude towards Taiwan). The last time such a large-scale exercise was conducted in Hokkaido against a hypothetical Soviet invasion in 1985."

After promising to 'stand with' India in its confrontation against China in Ladakh, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used strong words against China during his visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka; during an encounter with President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, he announced the opening of an embassy in the archipelago.

It means that India's neighbours are slowly turning their back on Beijing.

A top Indian diplomatic source told The Print that Pompeo's visit to Sri Lanka is "obviously going to help in reducing China's influence in the region," the source added: "All these countries which Pompeo is visiting - Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia - are key for the success of Indo-Pacific. India is seeking to establish robust and resilient supply chains with them."

With or without the US, the pro-China equation is progressively changing in the region.

The forthcoming visit of General MM Naravane, the Indian Army Chief (COAS) to Nepal, even if it does not solve the border dispute planted by China, is bound to rekindle the ancient kinship and deep cultural, religious and economic closeness between India and Nepal.

There is no doubt that Xi Jinping's reckless and arrogant attitude has not helped China to achieve anything towards Beijing's declared objectives to work for the Community of Nations, on the contrary.

(Claude Arpi is Director, Pavilion of Tibetan Culture at Auroville. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

Dubbaka dhamaka hits TRS

Dubbaka assembly voting pattern resembled the presidential election in United States of America that swung between Biden and Trump and the former won with simple majority. The result, though has shaken the TRS party, need not be taken seriously, but should be viewed the factors that worked negatively.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

Will GHMC elections further dent KCR?

The results of Dubbaka by winning BJP sri Raghunandan Rao will boost the image of the BJP In Telangana. Its looks that the BJP can only be the alternative to TRS. Right from the beginning the BJP says the same and in fact they proved it also. TRS should not take it as easy as it may even effect the prospects of GHMC elections which may be held in December or January. The recent unprecedented rains affected more than 35,000 families and nearly 50 percent colonies were submerged and the present government could not do much to their satisfaction and the amount they distributed Rs 10000 could not reach the real people. The scope for BJP winning the GHMC elections by more than 50 seats looks to be a possibility. On the other hand, the Congress also may improve their position considerably. It will certainly be a tough time for TRS winning the GHMC elections. To every

one surprise even the villagers also voted for BJP in Dubbaka which means people are fed up with tall promises made by the present ruling party of the state. Let's us see which party bags more seats in GHMC elections.

Kanagiri S N Prasad, Hyderabad

Handling China, Biden style

Joe Biden's win in the US Presidential election brings into question the new US administration's outlook towards China. Biden is no China hawk but he has always positioned himself as a hardline critic of China. He even called Xi Jinping a "thug" over his treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Though Biden is an advocate of non-violence, in the case of China he is likely to take a tough stand. He may not undo the current consensus that a more forceful and confrontational approach is required to deal with China. People are eager to know how Biden acts on the issues of tariffs and Taiwan. Biden is unlikely to adopt Trump's style.

Unlike Trump, Biden may rope in allies and build a consensus. The US acknowledges the fact that competition with China transcends the South China Sea. It realises that it has to go into competition with China involving technology, ideology and economy. Biden is unlikely to compromise on taking on the Chinese militarily, if such a situation arises. Biden had promised that he would meet Tibetan spiritual saint Dalai Lama at the earliest and this act may infuriate China.

It is very difficult to assume whether or not the US will return to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) or begin reducing tariffs on Chinese goods. It is certain that there will be a US government-backed

campaign to take on China in high-tech areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum computing, 6G and so on. The focus will be on making US more competitive rather than rejecting China. As a matter of fact, China's determination to develop comprehensively in all sectors and its fast economic revival in the wake of COVID-19 will act as driving force for US economic development in future.

Venu G S, Kollam

Welcome development

Before any new drug or vaccine reaches the market, it has to pass through a scientific, clinical, regulatory and ethical process. These mandatory requirements vary from country to country and may take months when people wait for a vaccine for Covid-19 relief. Independent scientists have cautioned against hyping early results before long-term safety and efficacy data has been collected.

And no one knows how long the vaccine's protection might last. Still, the development makes Pfizer the first company to announce positive results from a late-stage vaccine trial, vaulting it to the front of a frenzied global race that began in January and has unfolded at record-breaking speed.

We are all looking for a vaccine that is more than 90 per cent effective and solves the present problem. Cracking the vaccine is the call and the world's scientists are behind it and once the virus is bottled, then we can throw it to the sea and never be seen again.

C K R Nathan, Ghaziabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

YSR Jala Kala scheme takes off in State

■ AP Chief Minister launched the scheme aimed at drilling 2 lakh borewells free of cost to farmers on Sept 28

■ The scheme is a boon for farmers distressed in parched areas in the state

■ Rs 2,340 cr will be spent for the purpose in the next 4 years



HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

DRILLING of free borewells for irrigation purpose has commenced in the from Tuesday as promised by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

It may be recalled that on September 28, Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a scheme to drill 2 lakh borewells free of cost for farmers in the arid lands under the YSR Jala Kala scheme. This is to support needy farmers who do not have irrigation water sources other than borewell water. The scheme was launched with an expenditure of Rs 2,340

crore to be implemented in the next four years.

Arrangements have been made to start drilling work of boreholes in agricultural lands in 162 constituencies excluding those in urban areas seats in the state. As part of the programme, the local MLA will be the chief guest for the first borehole-drilling programme in their respective constituencies.

In addition to drilling the borewell free of cost, the government will also provide a motor or pump set free of cost. The state government aims to bring five lakh acre agricultural land under full cultivation through this scheme in the coming four

years benefitting more than 3 lakh farmers under this scheme.

The government has made all arrangements to provide rigs for drilling bores, for each Assembly constituency. Meanwhile, rural development commissioner Girija Shankar and watershed project director Venkat Reddy held a teleconference with district project directors on Monday.

District authorities were instructed to make all arrangements for the commencement of the drilling programme and clearly stated that the first bore drilling works should be conducted under the auspices of the local MLAs in their respective areas.

AP logs 1,886 more Covid cases

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh reported 1,886 new Covid positive cases, increasing the state's tally to 8.46 lakh, even as 2,151 more recoveries outnumbered infections on Tuesday.

Chittoor accounted for the highest number of infections, 291, followed by West Godavari (282), Guntur (275), Krishna (269), East Godavari (227) and Prakasam (111).

Among other places, Visakhapatnam (97), Nellore (79), Kadapa (67), Vizianagaram (62), Anantapur (60) and Srikakulam (33).

With the new additions, Guntur's tally is inching towards the 70,000-mark while Kurnool's is close to the 60,000-mark.

East Godavari continues to shoulder the highest number of cases at 1.19 lakh. Meanwhile, 12 more patients succumbed to the virus in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of deaths to 6,814.

Chittoor continues to be the district which has witnessed the highest number of Covid deaths at 799, just one short of the 800 mark. However, the southern state is consistently recording an impressive number of recoveries everyday.

Help to aged sex workers: Govt urged to implement SC direction

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

IN a representation to the director, state women development and child welfare department the members of the Vimukti and the state chapter of the Indian Leaders Forum Against Trafficking (ILFAT) appealed to the state government to distribute free ration as directed by the Supreme Court to the aged sex workers as there is no customer base for them due to their old age.

They also urged the government to formulate a new welfare scheme or plan to extend its support services to differently abled, suffering from chronic diseases and also for the welfare and protection of aged sex workers in the state.

Nimmaraju Rammohan, secretary of Help organisation, said that Vimukti has conducted a survey in Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna district which revealed that there are nearly 3,000 sex workers in these districts crossed the age of 40 and are away from the business surviving alone while suffering from various diseases. Durga, Bhanu Priya, Munni and Rajani who are the executive committee members of Vimukti said, "Who will take care of them, their care and protection and their welfare is big matter of concern."

He appealed to the government to implement GO No 1 of 2003 for providing rehabilitation to these victims.

Bihar cliffhanger

Continued from P1

Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has always played the role of the senior partner in the Bihar alliance. However, if the trend carries on, there will be a reversal of roles. The BJP has never held the chief minister's post in the state.

Tejashwi Yadav, Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial face, ran a spirited election campaign and centred on the promise of 10 lakh jobs if voted to power. The issue seems to have galvanised them as was evident by the huge numbers at his rally. The young leader, who critics say has come into his own during this election, marshalled his party well with no Lalu Prasad to guide him around. The Congress, contesting on 70 seats, is the junior partner in the alliance. Chirag Paswan, who lost his father Ram Vilas Paswan in the middle of the polls, has kept up his unrelenting attack on Nitish Kumar. Despite breaking away from the NDA alliance in Bihar, Chirag's Lok Janshakti Party continues to support the BJP at the Centre. Paswan put up candidates in all seats against the JD(U) and at one stage during the campaign even vowed to put the CM in jail.

Govt to develop Dronacharya city as Tourist destination

Continued from P1

Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh sent a letter to the Chief Minister on April 21, 2017, seeking to develop the area as a tourist destination. According to the announcement of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Drona city will be developed as a tourist destination at Dankaur at a cost of Rs 50 lakh.

Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh said that Dankaur town in Gautam Buddha Nagar dis-

trict has a historical, mythological and cultural significance. This region is also famous as Karmasthali of Guru Dronacharya. Here the Kauravas and Pandavas took education as depicted in Mahabharata.

The state government wants to develop the Yamuna Expressway as a heritage corridor up to Agra. Therefore, by choosing the town Dankaur as a tourism city, the importance of this corridor will increase further.

SC tells HC to hear govt's plea tomorrow

Continued from P1

He said, "We are willing to go back to the Delhi High Court, but we request if the HC judgment could be stayed for a week as this week is crucial. Due to Diwali, people are mingling, and cases will go beyond control... If our order (of September 12) would not have been stayed, we could have got 500 more beds to admit Covid-19 patients. The current requirement is for more than 6000 beds and Delhi government hospitals, put together, can provide only up to 4,000 beds."

The bench told Jain, "We are aware that the situation in the city is worsening. Delhi has a problem, sometimes 5,000, sometimes 10,000;

this is a fluctuating situation... You can bring this matter to the attention of the High Court." Jain explained that in the last few days, daily average of Covid-9 cases crossed the 7,000 mark. "If possible, please understand my predicament. The city is facing an extraordinary situation. Lots of people from other states are coming into Delhi for better healthcare. A large number of people in the middle-class segment in the city prefer to get admitted to private hospitals." He submitted that the order to reserve 80% ICU beds applied only to 33 private hospitals and was meant to be a temporary measure. "We won't insist on reserving 80% beds beyond a week or two weeks," Jain said.

Alstom's unit makes 500th Metro Car

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

ALSTOM, a leader in sustainable and smart mobility, achieved another milestone on Tuesday in India when its Sri City factory manufactures rolling stock (metro trains) for urban metro projects, successfully completing production of its 500th metro car.

As Alstom's largest urban rolling stock manufacturing unit in the Asia-Pacific region, this facility is delivering metro train sets to not only Indian cities but also global ones, Chennai, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Sydney and Montreal.

The currently operational metro train sets built at this facility have clocked over 27 million kilometre cumulatively.

Known for its state-of-the-art manufacturing standards, Alstom's Sri City facility started operations in September 2012, with manufacturing



The company delivers metro train sets to cities like Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, Sydney and Montreal

Started in Sept 2012 with manufacturing for Chennai Metro, the unit has recorded over 2 million manufacturing and testing hours and has a capacity to build 480 cars a year

for Chennai Metro. So far, the site has recorded over 2 million manufacturing and testing hours and has a capacity to build 480 cars per annum. Most recently, after the advent of Unlock 1.0 in India, the site successfully dispatched the first batch of two trainsets for the Canadian city of Montreal (Réseau Express Métropolitain).

Presently, the site is manufacturing for Mumbai Metro L3 (aqua line), Montréal Metro - Réseau Express Métropolitain and Sydney Metro (city and southwest extension).

This factory also has more than 15 per cent of women employees in various roles such as supervisors, planners, shop

floor engineers, etc., Speaking on this milestone, Alain Spohr, managing director of Alstom India and South Asia said, "Despite the global pandemic that has disrupted business across industries, our teams continue to work tirelessly, to ensure on-time deliveries to Metro Corporations who are working on upgrading urban mobility in various cities. We are manufacturing trainsets that incorporate the highest safety features along with enhanced passenger experience".

Cops solve 2-yr-old murder mystery

Lover turned out to be killer of the 28-yr-old woman

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

THE city police have solved a case of mysterious murder of a woman two years ago.

A man had chopped off the limbs of a woman with whom he befriended and stuffed the limbs in a gunny bag before dumping it at a secluded area and setting it on fire.

According to Guntur urban SP RN Ammi Reddy, the accused Sk Karimullah alias Nagoor befriended with a woman Sk Najin Begam (28) while they were studying polytechnic. After that they studied engineering and fell in love. After completing engineering, she joined an automobile company as a receptionist.

The accused used to take the girl to his room and have physical in-



Urban SP RN Ammi Reddy disclosing details of the case to media in Guntur on Tuesday

timacy with the girl. On May 25, 2018, the woman mounted pressure on the accused to marry her. When he rejected to marry her, she threatened him to create a scene at his residence. The accused Karimullah hit on her head and strangled her to death.

Later, he chopped off her limbs with a cutter and stuffed them in a gunny bag. He took the bag on his bike and dumped it secluded place at Suddapallidonka area. Two days later, he went there again. He poured petrol on the bag and set it on fire in bid to destroy the identity

of the woman. When he was asked about Najin Begam, he used to tell that she eloped with someone else.

However, the mother of the deceased lodged a complaint with the police on the missing daughter. A police team led by DSP B Sitaramaiah took up the investigation and arrested the accused Sk Karimullah.

The police recovered Aadhar card and voter card of the deceased, a cutting machine, empty petrol bottle and motorcycle. The accused is being produced before court.

Post-NGT order, AP mulls firecracker ban

- The green tribunal imposed a total ban on firecrackers in cities and towns where quality of air is already low
- Many States have already announced ban on use of fire crackers during Deepavali and other following festivals



HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government is contemplating a ban on firecrackers during the forthcoming Deepavali festival in the wake of the order issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) completely banning the fire crackers in the cities and towns where the quality of air is very low.

It may be recalled that several states have already imposed ban on fire crackers keeping in view the outbreak of Covid-19 in the country.

The chairman of the National Green Tribunal Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel issued orders on Monday imposing ban on fire crackers in the national capital region (NCR) following the drastic fall in the quality of air. The NGT also imposed

similar ban on various towns and cities throughout the country where the quality of air is low.

The NGT in its order made it clear that the state governments should fix particular time to use fire crackers during Deepavali, Christmas and New Year celebrations and if particular time is not fixed the fire crackers must be used between 8 pm and 10 pm on Deepavali and Guru Purnima and from 6 am to 8 am during Chhath Puja.

The NGT also said that the only green firecrackers should be sold in the towns and cities where the low quality air is prevailing.

It is apt to recall that the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation had already banned both sale and use of firecrackers in its limits on Monday.

TIDCO houses beneficiaries to meet OMC Commissioner

ONGOLE

THE meeting held with the TIDCO beneficiaries by the Prakasam district unit of CPI at Ongole on Tuesday decided to send a delegation to the Ongole Municipal Commissioner to let the officials fix a date to complete the TIDCO houses and hand over them to the beneficiaries.

The CPI Prakasam district secretary ML Narayana said the earlier government had announced to construct houses for poor families and the responsibilities were given to Andhra Pradesh Township and Infrastructure Development Cor-

poration to complete them. He said that to realize the dream of own house, the poor families had brought loans at higher interests and paid them as instalment. But the earlier government was able to complete up to 90 percent and the new government never cared to complete the remaining 10 percent and distribute them to the beneficiaries, he argued. Narayana alleged that the present government is wanting to neglect the TIDCO houses constructed by the TDP and luring the public in the name of housing plots and announcing that the TIDCO beneficiaries are not selected for them.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Tetra Pak foresees bright future

“The pandemic has created concerns about food safety and has brought to the forefront the need for access to safe and hygienic food that can reach the remotest of consumers, despite challenges in the supply chain.


— Tetra Pak South Asia MD **Ashutosh Manohar**



EXPORTS

Country records positive growth in exports

The country's exports grew 22.47 per cent year-on-year to \$ 6.75 billion in the first week of November, mainly driven by healthy growth in pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery and engineering sectors, an official said on Tuesday. The exports during the first week of November last year was \$ 5.51 billion

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	78.64	South	
Euro	91.94	African Rand	5.49
UAE Dirham	22.21	Hong Kong Dollar	11
Thai Baht	2.8	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	102.2	New Zealand Dollar	53.21
Australian Dollar	56.77	Saudi Riyal	21.75
Canadian Dollar	59.86	Swedish Krona	9.87
Swiss Franc	84.2	Singapore Dollar	57.81

DELHI WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

TurboHire raise funds

TurboHire has raised \$1 million in seed funding with a series of institutional and individual investors investing in the promising startup. Founded in 2018 by ITians and NITians who quit their respective jobs at Microsoft, Google, and ISB and created a new augmented intelligence-based platform to dramatically change how organizations make hiring decisions. The seed capital of \$ 1 million will be utilised for taking TurboHire to global markets, improving the value proposition by building an ecosystem, and deepening the intelligence with automated interviews. “We have created a platform that deeply understands human requirements but acts with the speed and precision of a machine. It uses deep tech as well as data science to provide greater insight to recruiters and allows organizations to save more than 60 per cent in time to hire and cost of hire,” said Deepak Agrawal, CEO at TurboHire.

Hyundai's campaign

AUTOMAKER Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Tuesday announced a celebratory pre Diwali-camp with special service offers on car beautification for Hyundai customers. The offers include 20 per cent discount on paint protection, exterior beautification, interior enrichment, premium interior foam cleaning, engine cleaning/dressing etc. Tarun Garg, Director (Sales, Marketing & Service), Hyundai, said, “With the ongoing festive season, we wish to celebrate and connect with our customers through innovative service initiatives thereby providing them with quality time for a happy life.” Hyundai encourages their customers to beautify their cars for the festive period of Diwali just as they do for their homes, he added.

Analysts upbeat on Gland Pharma

ANALYSTS are upbeat on Gland Pharma Ltd as it has one of the strongest pipelines in highentry barrier injectables segment. Its 267 ANDA filings comprise 191 ANDA filings for sterile injectables, 50 for oncology and 26 for ophthalmic related products. Interestingly, on the compliance front, the Hyderabad-based company had never received warning letters from USFDA since inception. ICICI Securities has given a subscribe recommendation to the stock at Rs 1,500 per equity share, the stock is available at 31.7x FY20. “With benefits of being an out and out integrated injectable/ophthal manufacturer and B2Bfunctionary combined, Gland offers a compelling proposition with its unblemished regulatory track record and customer stickiness besides long-standing manufacturing pedigree, justifying premium valuation. We have a SUBSCRIBE recommendation on the stock,” ICICI Securities said in its report.

OnePlus tops in sales

OnePlus has successfully gained market leadership as the no.1 smartphone brand in the affordable premium segment in India as per the latest Counterpoint Quarterly report for Q3 2020. In addition, the recently launched OnePlus Nord emerged as the no.1 selling smartphone in the upper mid-tier segment as per the Counterpoint report for Q3 2020 for India. OnePlus 8 sales drove the brand's success in the affordable premium smartphone segment in India as per Counterpoint report. The brand announced its revamped business strategy with the aim of building a premium accessible connected ecosystem that brings great technology to more users across price points.

Demand for gold loans rises as Covid bites

MUMBAI

WITH gold being a prominent feature in India's investment landscape, the demand for gold loans has grown due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and is expected to grow to Rs 4,05,100 crore in 2020-21, according to a report.

“Demand for gold loans, both through banks and NBFC, has grown in response to the economic impact of the pandemic.” As a result, outstanding organised gold loan is expected to grow to Rs 4,05,100 crore in 2020-21 from Rs 3,44,800 crore in 2019-20,” the World Gold Council (WGC) said in the report, titled ‘Gold loans help India weather the Covid-19

WGC says gold loans expected to grow to ₹4.05 lakh cr in FY21

storm’. The gold loan industry has traditionally been a pillar of support for small businesses and households in need of emergency short-term assistance and for the unorganised lending that normally co-exists with any robust gold market, WGC Managing Director (India) Somasundaram PR said. He added that the regulated institutional framework of gold loans in India has made it ubiquitous over the past decade, which is a boon.

The Covid-19 pandemic has boosted demand for gold loans through banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and the recent rise was seen some time since July

Gold loans will benefit not just the demand side but also the supply side dynamics, as many banks and NBFCs target this product segment on account of its acceptable risk profile



2019 when prices started moving up sharply. “A 28.8 per cent rally in domestic gold price

this year and the need for quick credit among small businesses will further spur

gold loans’ growth post the pandemic.”

Gold loans will benefit not just the demand side but also the supply side dynamics, as many banks and NBFCs target this product segment on account of its acceptable risk profile, he stated. “India's leading gold NBFCs expect their gold loan AUMs (assets under management) to grow 15-20 per cent in the current financial year. Further branch expansions of gold loan NBFCs and increased adoption of technology make the growth outlook of the gold loan market look even more promising,” he added. Somasundaram also said

the market is expected to grow at an annual rate of 15.7 per cent and reach Rs 4,61,700 crore in 2021-22 from Rs 3,44,800 crore in 2019-20.

The report further stated that the gold loan industry constitutes an important pillar in supporting the financing needs of individuals and small businesses in the country. Gold is a preferred savings for Indian households as it provides capital preservation, liquidity and source of funding during bad economic times, supporting the relevance of gold as a strategic asset in India. With the emergence of the pandemic, there has been a clear trend in increase in gold loan demand from individuals and businesses, it added.

Sensex scales Mt 43K

Mkts make a record run on vaccine boost; Nifty closes at all time high

MUMBAI

EQUITY benchmarks rallied to fresh lifetime highs on Tuesday, propelled by banking and finance stocks, after positive results from Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine trials turbocharged global market sentiment.

Climbing for the seventh session on the trot, the BSE Sensex soared 680.22 points or 1.60 per cent to close above the 43,000-mark for the first time at 43,277.65. Intra-day, the 30-share benchmark touched its lifetime peak of 43,316.44.

The broader NSE Nifty too ended at its all-time high of 12,631.10, up 170.05 points or 1.36 per cent. It hit an intra-day record of 12,643.90 during the session. Both the benchmarks scaled record highs for the second straight session.

Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 8.84 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, ONGC and Axis Bank. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Nestle India, Infosys, Sun Pharma and TCS were among the main laggards, tumbling up to 5.73 per cent. Global equities wit-



nessed a relief-rally after Pfizer and BioNTech on Monday said their vaccine candidate was found to be more than 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19.

“Announcements by BioNTech and Pfizer about successful phase 3 trial of Covid-19 vaccine instilled a confidence among investors and possibility of sustained economic recovery led sharp buying in beaten down stocks,” said Arjun Yash Mahajan, Head Institutional Business at Reliance Securities. Favourable global markets and NDA's surprising lead in Bihar assembly elections also supported the rally, he added. However, champions that emerged during pandemic like IT and pharma stocks witnessed sharp profit booking, he noted. The ruling NDA in Bihar

Favourable global markets and NDA's surprising lead in Bihar Assembly elections also supported the rally

was ahead of its rivals in more than half of the state's 243 assembly seats, with the BJP appearing set to outperform its senior alliance partner JD(U) headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, according to trends available till late afternoon.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with gains, while Shanghai settled lower. Stock exchanges in Europe were mostly trading on a positive note. Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 4,548.39 crore on Monday, according to provisional exchange data. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.42 per cent higher at USD 43 per barrel. The rupee depreciated by 3 paise to close at 74.18 against the US dollar as higher crude oil prices and stronger dollar against key global currencies weighed on sentiment. (PTI)

WhatsApp Shopping button now live in India

NEW DELHI

FACEBOOK on Tuesday made a new shopping button in WhatsApp live globally, including in India, to help people check out available products and make purchases right from a chat. The tool will make it easier for people to discover a business' catalog so



they know what goods or services it offers.

Previously, people had to click into the business' profile to see

if the business had a catalog. “Now, when a person sees the shopping button, which looks like a storefront icon, they will immediately know the business has a catalog so they can browse products and start a conversation about an item they see with just one tap,” the company said in a statement.

Ramraj Cottons to open outlet in Zaheerabad

HANS BUSINESS
Hyderabad

RAMRAJ Cottons said it will inaugurate a new showroom on Wednesday in Zaheerabad. The showroom will be inaugurated by BB Patil, Member of Parliament from Zaheerabad constituency. The first floor of the new showroom will be inaugurated by Koninti Manik Rao, MLA representing Zaheerabad constituency. The first sale in the showroom will be done through the hands of Mohammad Fariduddin, an MLC. The cash counter puja will be performed through the hands of Mahankali Subhash, former Municipal chairperson and President of Arya Vaisya Sangham. Dr Desaiyeta Maheshwara Sharma Siddhanti, founder of Jyothirvastu Vidya Peetham will light the lamp for the ceremony.

Wipro's Premji the most generous Indian in FY20

He had donated ₹7,904 cr, ₹22 crore a day, in FY20; Mukesh Ambani at 3rd

MUMBAI, IT major Wipro's Azim Premji donated Rs 22 crore a day or Rs 7,904 crore in a year to emerge as the most generous Indian in FY20 and top a list of philanthropy.

Premji pipped HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar, who had earlier topped the list collated by Hurun Report India and Edelgive Foundation, by a wide margin. Nadar's donations stood at Rs 795 crore for FY20 as against Rs 826 crore in the year-ago period. Premji had donated Rs 426 crore in the previous fiscal.

Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries retained the third spot among the list of givers by donating Rs 458 crore as against Rs 402 crore a year ago, it said. The raging pandemic had the corporate honchos repurposing their donations to fight the Covid infections, and the top giver on this turned out to be Tata Sons with Rs 1,500-crore commitment, followed by Premji at Rs 1,125



crore and Ambani's Rs 510 crore.

A bulk of the corporate commitments seemed to be given to the PM-CARES Fund, with Reliance Industries committing Rs 500 crore, and Aditya Birla Group donating Rs 400 crore, the report said. It can be noted that Tatas' commitment also includes a Rs 500 crore donation to the newly created fund.

Premji's generosity pulled the total donations up by 175 per

cent to Rs 12,050 crore in FY20, the list said. Azim Premji Endowment Fund owns 13.6 per cent of the promoter's shareholding in Wipro and has the right to receive all money earned from promoter shares, the report said. The number of individuals who have donated more than Rs 10 crore increased marginally to 78 from the year-ago period's 72, the report said.

With a donation of Rs 27 crore,

MAHINDRA Q2 NET PROFIT FALLS 88%

NEW DELHI

MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) on Tuesday reported a 88 per cent drop in its profit after tax to Rs 162 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, mainly on account of the impairment provision of Rs 1,149.46 crore for certain long-term investments.

The auto major along with unit - Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers Ltd (MVML) - had reported a PAT of Rs 1,355 crore during the July-September period last fiscal. Revenues of the company, however, increased to Rs 11,590 crore in the second quarter, as against Rs 10,935 crore in the same period previous fiscal, M&M said in a regulatory filing.

The Mumbai-based firm sold 87,332 units in the second quar-

ter, down 21 per cent from 1,10,824 units in the year-ago period. Tractor sales, however, increased by 31 per cent to 89,597 units in the July-September period as compared to 68,359 units a year ago. The exceptional items

on account of impairments have led to a drop in the profit after tax in the current quarter as compared to the corresponding quarter in the previous year.

The company said an exceptional item of Rs 1,149.46 crore during the September quarter represents impairment provision for certain long-term investments. On the outlook, the company said with the government spending and rural demand anchoring economic activity, manufacturing and some categories of services have gradually recovered in the second quarter.



India PC market ships record 3.4mn units in Q3

NEW DELHI

AS the demand for e-learning and remote working remained strong, the Indian traditional PC market (inclusive of desktops, notebooks and workstations) delivered a strong quarter with 9.2 per cent year-over-year (YoY) growth shipping 3.4 million units in the September period, a new IDC report said on Tuesday. The July-September quarter is the biggest PC quarter in the last seven years in India. Although the commercial segment had very few government and education projects, the consumer segment recorded its biggest quarter ever with 2 million shipments, growing 41.7 per cent (YoY) and 167.2 per cent from the previous quarter. HP Inc retained the top position in the overall PC market with a share of 28.2 per cent. The company recorded a strong quarter in both consumer and commercial segments with a 16.6 per cent increase in shipments when compared to the same time a year ago.

'Roller pin' robbed pink party of win?

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HAS the symbol, roller pin, resembling the car symbol of TRS led to the defeat of party candidate in Dubbaka bypoll? The TRS party leaders believe that a symbol identical to their party symbol was polled 3,570 votes and had hampered the chances of the party.

According to party leaders, one independent candidate Bandaru Nagaraju was allotted the symbol of rolling pin, which was identical to that of car symbol. Nagaraju was fourth after Congress party candidate in terms of total votes. Nagaraju polled 3,570 votes, including the 60 postal ballot votes and he was fourth in the list of number of votes secured by the candidates. The TRS leaders felt that the symbol had confused the voters especially the senior citizens leading to the large number of votes getting polled for an independent candidate. It may be mentioned here that the rolling pin had secured more votes even in the Huzurnagar bypoll. The independent candidate Sapavath Suman polled 2,693 votes and he was getting close to the Congress and BJP candidates. The identical symbols such as truck and tractors have affected the party in successive elections, said a TRS leader.

TRS netas decode Dubbaka defeat

- Party leaders feel that delay in the selection of candidate and underestimating the BJP candidate have led to party's loss in Dubbaka bypoll
- Sympathy towards the BJP candidate as he had lost three times from the constituency has also worked out in his favour

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE TRS leaders felt that several factors, including the delay in the selection of candidate and underestimating the BJP candidate, have led to party's defeat in Dubbaka bypoll.

The bypoll result had brought disappointment to the TRS leaders as this was the first defeat of the party in the bypolls held after the formation of the State. Several leaders had come to party office after the party got leads in the successive rounds in the final stages. However, they left in disappointment after the BJP secured majority in the final rounds.

According to party leaders, there were different reasons for the defeat of the party, and they felt that this was like an alarm for them for the future elections. A senior leader from the party,



BJP candidate M Raghunandan Rao receiving election certificate from an official on Tuesday

on the condition of anonymity, said that there were many reasons including the delay in announcement of the candidate for the party's defeat. The TRS leader said that the party thought that sentiment would work if Solipeta Sujatha was made the candidate, but it worked against the party. It is said that M Raghunandan Rao was immediately thrown into the field after the death of S Ramalinga Reddy.

The party leaders also felt that the development in Dubbaka was also a talking point during the election campaign. The voters had even questioned the TRS leaders asking why there was no

development in the constituency on par with the neighbouring areas of Siddipet, Gajwel and Chinamadaka, the home town of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. The party leaders also said that there was some sympathy towards the BJP candidate as he had lost three times from this constituency earlier.

The TRS leader said that the people of Dubbaka believed the words of BJP leaders that there was a share of the Central government in every scheme. The social media had also played its part in the victory of BJP candidate, said the TRS leader. He said that a video went viral on social media on the day of elections

that the Congress candidate was joining TRS. With this, the anti-establishment votes did not split and these votes were polled in favour of BJP, the TRS leader added. The incident of arrests of BJP chief Bandi Sanjay and other issues also worked against the party, he noted. Another TRS leader said that the party made a mistake by not giving responsibilities to other leaders of the party and entrusting the task only to Harish Rao. "Earlier, the party used to appoint in-charges for mandals and they used to make sure the cadre is intact and ensure the victory of the candidate. But this time, there was no such thing," said the TRS leader.

ORR turns bloody; 6 migrants killed, 3 hurt in predawn mishap

The victims, natives of UP and Jharkhand, were on their way to Nagpur while the vehicle they travelled crashed into another unidentified vehicle from rear

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MUTHANGI

IN a ghastly mishap, six migrants were killed and three others injured as the vehicle they were travelling crashed into another vehicle from rear on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) at Muthangi in the wee hours of Tuesday. The victims were travelling in a Mahindra Xylo car from Bengaluru towards Nagpur. The police said the victims had been identified as natives of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. The driver of the vehicle is absconding.

The incident took place on the ORR, between Gachibowli and Muthangi, midway on the outskirts of Pati village near Patancheru. The deceased were identified as Kamalesh Lohare, Hari Lahore, Pramod, Vinor and Pawan and another person is yet to be identified identified, according to the police.

The incident happened at around 3.30am on Tuesday. Alerted by other vehicles, the ORR patrol teams and the po-

lice rushed to the spot and started rescue operation. The police found there were ten persons in the SUV including the driver who started from Bengaluru on Monday evening and were travelling via Hyderabad.

The police said the SUV driver could have tried to overtake another vehicle in front from the right side and in the process, hit it on the left. As a result, the left portion of the SUV was completely damaged and as the vehicle was moving at high speed, it toppled multiple times and came to a halt on the road. The police also suspect that the other vehicle involved in the accident could be a mini truck or a DCM van. A hunt has been launched to nab the SUV driver and also trace the other vehicle.

Sangareddy DSP P Sreedhar Reddy said rash driving and speeding led to the accident. The accident happened while the SUV was trying to overtake another vehicle from the right side, he added.

KCR announces ₹50 lakh to kin of martyred jawan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday has expressed shock over the martyrdom of Army jawan Mahesh from Nizamabad district, who was killed in an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister said K Mahesh would be remembered in his-

tory as the one who sacrificed his life for the country. He said that the State government would stand by and support the family. The Chief Minister announced Rs 50 lakh financial assistance to the family. He also said one member of the family based on the qualification would be given the government job. KCR said a house site would also be allotted to the family of Mahesh.

Woman safety panel asked to come up with recommendations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar presided over a meeting of Committee on Safety and Security of Women and Girl Children at BRKR Bhavan on Tuesday. The committee was constituted as per the instructions of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. The Chief Secretary asked the committee constituted for Safety and Security of Woman and Girl Children to come up with their recommendations. The women officers comprising senior IAS officials and an IPS officer explained various issues faced by women and proposed certain actions for addressing them.

They also recommended forming certain Sub-Committee to focus on specific areas such as safety of women at home, workplace, travel etc., Secretary to CM Smita Sabharwal, Secretary SC Development Yogita Rana, Secretary Tribal Welfare Christina Z Chongthu, Commissioner, Family Welfare Vakati Karuna, Secretary Women & Child Welfare Divya, OSD to CM Priyanka Verghese and senior IPS Sumathi participated in the meeting.

'New bus terminal will reflect Indian spirituality'



Ministers P Ajay Kumar and V Prasanth Reddy and Government Whip Gongidi Sunitha inspecting the site map of RTC bus stand to be constructed, in Yadadri on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
YADADRI

TRANSPORT Minister P Ajay Kumar and R&B Minister V Prashanth Reddy on Tuesday inspected the site proposed for construction of the bus terminal at Gandhi Cheruvu and the place proposed for bus depot at Saidapur. Earlier, they had darshan of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Balalayam and priests welcomed the Ministers as per the temple rituals.

Speaking to the media, Transport Minister Ajay Kumar stated that Yadari temple revival works are being done with world class standards and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has decided to setup full infrastructure to the magnificent Yadadri shrine. He said bus stand construction at Yadadri will be carried out with spiritual touch and the RTC will arrange local shuttle services under the

auspices of YTDA for pilgrims' convenience, he added.

Ajay further said that considering future needs, bus depot is being constructed to accommodate about 150 night-halt buses and the District Collector has allotted land to RTC for the construction of bus depot in Yadadri and the construction will be finished before the opening of Yadadri main temple.

R&B Minister V Prashanth Reddy stated that the government is making all necessary arrangements so that devotees could have hassle-free darshan during their visit to Yadadri. "The construction of 14 suites for VVIPs was completed. Besides the construction of temple city, the R&B department took up construction of Outer Ring Road around Yadadri temple," he said. Reddy said that the CM KCR paid special attention on Yadadri temple revival works to showcase India's spiritual reputation to the world.

BJP victory a slap in the face of TRS: Galla

KHAMMAM

THE victory of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Dubbaka Assembly by-poll is a slap in the face of the TRS, stated BJP district chief Galla Satyanarayana.

On Tuesday, the party ranks in Khammam celebrated the BJP candidate's victory in Dubbaka by-election. Satyanarayana, who led the celebrations, stated that party candidate Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao' victory over TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha was a historic one.

"The election result clearly indicates the increasing strength of BJP in Telangana and the voters in Dubbaka taught a fitting lesson to the feudal-minded TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao, who often insults Opposition parties and their leaders," he noted.

Satyanarayana hoped that BJP would repeat Dubbaka by-election result in the upcoming Khammam-Nalgonda-Warangal Graduates' MLC constituency election also. He called upon the party cadres to strive hard to strengthen the BJP in Khammam district and work for its victory in the MLC elections.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Election Commissioner C Partha Sarathi on Tuesday asked the deputy commissioners of GHMC to ensure the final list of polling stations is released on November 21. The SEC asked the deputy commissioners to provide all the support to the returning officers. The Commission issued a no-



MAUD Minister KT Rama Rao inaugurating waste-to-energy plant at Jawaharnagar, on Tuesday

entific way, it was proposed to generate power by processing a total of 3,200 metric tonnes of garbage, with another 28 MW plant coming up within 18 months.

A part from this, another plant with 15 MW waste to energy power plant was coming up at Dundigal, which is sufficient to dispose the garbage for next 10 years, the Minister informed.

Further, the Minister added

that as a long-term plan and to decentralise waste management in a scientific way in Hyderabad, the State government has identified two places at Lakdaram and Pyrenagar, which are far away from human habitations.

In order to contain foul smell, the government has decided to treat the waste by spending Rs 250 crore. The Minister further assured to provide medical and ed-

ucational facilities to the residents of Jawaharnagar. The Minister reiterated that the Telangana government was committed towards issuing ownership rights to all eligible low and middle-income groups across the State without collecting any fee. Towards this initiative, the government had already launched Dharani portal.

Citing the example of 15 to 16 colonies in Uppal, the Minister

said the residents in these colonies were issued ownership rights. With this the residents could avail loans for business, educational purposes etc. Across the State over 70 per cent of people own pattas and few areas like Jawaharnagar, residents were yet to get the pattas, he said, assuring the 40,000 residents of Jawaharnagar and neighboring areas of pattas. A special programme would be organised and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would issue the pattas, the Minister informed.

Minister Malla Reddy, speaking on the occasion, requested KT Rama Rao to provide drinking water tap connection to the residents and also to provide roads and street lights.

Mayor Dr Bonthu Rammohan, Rajya Sabha MP and Ramky chairman Ayodhya Ramreddy, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar, Pollution Control Board Secretary Neethu Prasad, Medchal Collector Vasam Venkateshwarlu, Boduppal Corporation Mayor Samala Buchi Reddy, Jawahar Nagar Corporation mayor Mekala Kavya and others participated in the programme.

Accord high priority for protection of assets, properties: SCR GM

Additional General Manager and Principal Heads of Departments, Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions. Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded Divisions participated the review meeting

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SOUTH Central Railway, General Manager Gajanan Mallya conducted a review meeting on safety, freight loading and punctuality of the zone on Tuesday at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad through video conferencing. Additional General Manager and principal heads of departments, Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions. Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded Divisions participated the review meeting through web conference. Mallya conducted a detailed review of all safety related aspects over the

zone. He instructed the DRMs to install Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system to monitor the safety at places where it is not covered by the surveillance systems. He stated that CCTV surveillance system will be effective in monitoring the miscreant activities, if any. He also advised to ensure the divisional officers that all the stabled coaches are locked properly and safety measures to be observed at all railway premises such as station yards and sidings.

Mallya stressed on imparting the training on Road Learning (LR) to all running staff (Loco Pilots, Assistant Loco Pilots and Guards) about new sections and

new signals of the zone since new doubling sections have been added in to the system. He also said about conducting refresher courses to all the technical staff at the earliest. Mallya also held a detailed review with all the Divisional Railway Managers on the efforts of Business Development Units (BDU's) and performance of freight loading. He advised the officials to continue their efforts to further improve the freight loading and punctuality of the train operations over the zone. He also discussed the progress of major projects on the zone. He appreciated the officials for the increasing the average speed of freight trains to 51 kmph.

along with the deputy commissioners should hold a meeting with the political parties on November 16. The claims and objections should be disposed of by November 18.

The SEC said that the returning officers should send their final list of polling stations to the GHMC commissioner on November 19 and with the consent of the Commissioner the final list should be published.

Final list of polling stations to be published on Nov 21

tification for preparing the list of polling stations for the GHMC elections. As per the notification, the officials would prepare a draft list of polling stations on November 12, the list would be published by the

returning officers with the consent of GHMC commissioner on November 13. Claims and objections will be received till 5 pm on November 17 by the concerned returning officers. The returning officers



UAE's sand-based grounds 'hamstring' key Indian players

NEW DELHI

AT least five India players, including India's limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma, have suffered hamstring injury or strain during the Indian Premier League (IPL). Playing after a long layoff due to Covid-19 lockdown could be the main reason for this; the sand-based outfields in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have also emerged as another.

Besides Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha, Vijay Shankar, Ambati Rayudu and Rishabh Pant have all suffered hamstring injury or strain during the tournament while Bhuvneshwar Kumar had to pull out due to muscle injury. Three of them have been selected to tour Australia this month.

Murali Kartik, former cricketer-turned-commentator, had pointed this out during a match last week. "A reason for players getting injured during the tournament is that these are sand-based grounds," he had said.

The outfields in Sharjah, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi are made entirely of sand which is softer and puts a lot more strain on the hamstring. This is the first time an entire edition of IPL was played in the UAE. Back in 2014, the BCCI hosted only 20 games in the UAE.

In India, the home of the lucrative

tournament, many of the grounds have soil mixed in the outfield with only a top dressing fine of sand. The dressing, too, has fine sand and organic matter.

"The sand-based outfields are softer than the soil-based outfields. In India, all the newer stadia being built have purely sand-based outfields as the water drains out faster in these and also the grass grows better and evenly as they irrigate better. And because sand is softer than soil that was used earlier, it is safer for fielding also," said Daljeet Singh, the former head of BCCI pitches and grounds committee.

"However, in many grounds in India that have been there for some time, only a top dressing of fine sand [mixed with organic matter] is done. What happens, generally, is that on purely sand-based outfields, the metal spikes of players, especially the bowlers, go much deeper than into soil-based surfaces. When they pull those out, there is some effort and it puts some strain on the hamstring," he said. Singh, a former first-class cricketer, said: "On soil-based outfields, the outfield is hard, inconsistent, at some place there will be a patch of grass or a patch of brown. The players' spikes don't go that deep and they will just mark the surface on the top and come out." In India, the older grounds like Eden Gardens, Wankhede Stadium, Ferozeshah Kotla or Mohali are soil-based with top dressing of fine sand and organic matter.

The new ground like the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali is completely sand-based. (IANS)



'Whether DC win or lose IPL 13, they should stick to their players'

DUBAI

DELHI Capitals have a fantastic bunch of talented players and they should stick to them whether they win the Indian Premier League 2020 or not, feels former India batsman Sanjay Bangar.

Delhi Capitals have been able to make it to their first-ever IPL final where they will be facing Mumbai Indians on Tuesday evening. "Delhi have to be careful, they have a fantastic bunch of talented players and they should stick to them, irrespective if they win the championship or do not because they are coming close to it, it's not far away," said Bangar while speaking on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

"If they continue to show the same faith and belief in the players that they have, I feel the Championship is just around the corner for them," he added.

For the Delhi-based franchise, the likes of Shikhar Dhawan and Ravichandran Ashwin have been in great form this season. While Dhawan (603 runs) sits at the second spot in the list of leading run-scorers, Ashwin has been able to provide the team with the much-needed experience in the bowling department and has picked 13 wickets so far. (IANS)

Tokyo Olympic officials talk of test events early next year

TOKYO

TOKYO Olympics organisers on Tuesday said they were encouraged by a gymnastics meet over the weekend and are now ready to hold test events early next year.

The Sunday meet featured 22 Russian, Chinese and American athletes entering Japan and competing in Tokyo with a few thousand fans attending. Hidemasa Nakamura, the Tokyo Olympic games delivery officer, told an on-line briefing that plans are now in the works for more test events starting in March. However, he did not say what form these might take or if non-Japanese athletes would be involved.

"We are discussing how to deal with COVID-19 together with the Japanese government and Tokyo Metropolitan Government," he said. "From the beginning of next year we will begin operations and proceed to have test events in March."

Holding the postponed Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be far more difficult than a one-day event with a few dozen athletes. Reports said no staff or athletes tested positive for the virus at the meet. The gymnasts who entered Japan first faced a quarantine at home.

In Tokyo, they were isolated in



hotel rooms, not allowed out for tourism, and tested daily for COVID-19. Tokyo Olympic officials, the International Olympic Committee, and the Japanese government are trying to convince the world that the postponed Games can open on July 23 despite so much uncertainty in the ongoing pandemic.

IOC President Thomas Bach is expected in Tokyo later this month to drive home the point, particularly with the public and with local sponsors who have put up more than \$3 billion to run the Games.

Alia 1st female independent member in PCB's BoG

Lahore: Alia Zafar has become the first female to be appointed as an independent member in Board of Governors of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The decision was made at the 59th meeting of PCB's BoG held at the National High-Performance Centre on Monday. Along with Alia, Javed Kurieshi, Asim Wajid Jawad and Arif Saeed have also been appointed as independent members. Kurieshi and Saeed have been appointed to the BoG for a three-year period, while Jawad and Alia have been appointed for a two-year period. (IANS)



Vietnam dropped from '21 F1 calendar, S Arabia in

Istanbul: Formula One is planning a record 23 races in 2021, including one in Saudi Arabia, but has dropped its inaugural race in Vietnam. The April slot for the Vietnamese Grand Prix was listed as "TBC" on the calendar published on Tuesday with no explanation and no mention of Vietnam. The race was scheduled to debut this year but abandoned amid the coronavirus pandemic. The other 22 races include the first-ever Saudi Grand Prix, set for Nov. 28 in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, and the return of numerous races which were canceled during the pandemic. (AP)

Thai player Nattakan's jaw-dropping effort in field wins applause

SHARJAH

NATTAKAN Chantam, the lone Thai player in to play in the Women's T20 Challenge, got to face a solitary ball in Trailblazers' three matches. Still, the livewire fielder won all-round applause with an extraordinary dive near the boundary line that saved a certain four against Supernovas in the final that her team won.

Nattakan's jaw-dropping effort was akin to a swimmer's dive in a pool, and she didn't seem to worry one bit about an injury that it might have caused. Chasing an outside edge off Jemimah Rodrigues' bat off a ball from Sophie Ecclestone, 24-year-old Nattakan gave her all to prevent the ball from crossing the boundary line.

That effort, which saved two runs for her team, came in the second over as Supernovas chased Trailblazers' 118 for eight wickets in 20 overs at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

The video clip of Nattakan has since gone viral and won praise from many, including contempo-



rary players like England's Kate Cross. "Worth it for this piece of fielding though," Kate wrote while commenting on a tweet that attached the video of Nattakan's effort.

Standing at short third man position, Nattakan sprinted towards the boundary like a 100m sprinter and stopped the ball crossing the rope. And just when she realised that the ball might win the race, Nattakan put a stunning dive near the ropes and flicked the ball back, making a save that stunned many.

"I just saw a boundary save in the women's T20 challenge from Chantam that was as good as anything I saw in 59 IPL matches this season!" tweeted commentator Joy Bhattacharya.

Later in the Supernovas' innings, Nattakan took a brilliant catch at cover-point to help dismiss the dangerous Jemimah off spinner Deepti Sharma. Jemimah managed just 13 off 16 balls, and her team was eventually restricted to 102 for seven wickets in 20 overs, which gave Trailblazers'

their maiden title with a 16-run verdict.

Earlier in the final, when Trailblazers batted, Nattakan got to play the last ball of the innings and was run out for nought. It was perhaps her desire to overcome the disappointment of not getting the opportunity to bat in two earlier matches and failing to contribute in the final that motivated her further in the outfield.

Recently, West Indies' Nicholas Pooran had come out with a stunning fielding effort during the ninth match of Indian Premier League. In the eighth over of Rajasthan Royals' chase of 224 against Kings XI Punjab, Sanju Samson had played a pull shot off Murugan Ashwin. Pooran, standing at deep mid-wicket, dived full length over the rope to catch the ball.

The West Indian caught the ball while hanging in the air and realising that he wouldn't be able to get back inside the boundary line with the ball, he threw it in -- all the while being suspended in thin air - and saved a certain six. (IANS)

www.kapilchits.com

KAPIL CHITS

SINCE 1981

మీ కలలకు సాకారం

కొన్ని బంధాలు కొనసాగుతూనే ఉంటాయి...