



# THE HANS INDIA

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

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

To advertise  
or  
to subscribe  
give a  
missed call to  
**88823 96396**

## WINDOWS



Successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha on Tuesday

## Modi to chair Covid review meet with CMs

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a high-level virtual meeting with Chief Ministers and Health Ministers of seven high-burden states on Wednesday to review the Covid-19 situation. These states are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Punjab, an official statement said, noting that more than 63 per cent of the active cases in the country are concentrated in these seven states. They also account for 65.5 per cent of the total confirmed cases and 77 per cent of the total deaths.

## China doubles air bases near LAC in 2 yrs

**New Delhi:** China has started construction of at least 13 entirely new military positions including three air bases, five permanent air defence positions and five heliports near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the aftermath of the Doklam standoff in 2017, according to a report by global security consultancy Stratfor. The report also said construction on four of those new heliports started only after the current border standoff erupted in eastern Ladakh in early May.

## UN faces crisis of confidence: PM

**United Nations:** In an under-4 minute video message, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed United Nations the mirror and urged it to take a long, hard look at its "crisis of confidence" while ratcheting up the call for a new template of multilateralism that "reflects today's realities" on Day One of the United Nations high level week being live streamed to the world from the UN headquarters in New York City.



**New Delhi:** Pointing out that a nation's future depends on what its youths think today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it was time for them to be future-ready and future-fit.

"I firmly believe that the future of the nation is what its youths think today. Your dreams are going to shape the reality of India. The time now is to be future-ready and future-fit," the Prime Minister said while addressing the 22nd convocation of IIT-Guwahati.

Speaking on the New Education Policy 2020, the Prime Minister pointed out that it has been made multi-disciplinary. "It will connect education with technology and make technology an integral part of our students' thinking." The NEP has also paved the way for increased use of online learning across the country, he added.

Stressing the need for research, Modi said that the NEP proposed a National Research Foundation to enrich the culture

of research in the country. "I'm certain that research will become a habit for everyone. It will become a part of your thought process," the Prime Minister said.

**"I firmly believe that the future of the nation is what its youth thinks today. Your dreams are going to shape the reality of India. The time now is to be future-ready and future-fit"**

He also sought to connect the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative to education. "You are well aware of the importance of education for a self-reliant India. The new NEP is only

for youths like you in the 21st century — those who will lead the world and make India a global leader in science and technology," he told the attendees at the convocation.

"Education is gradually becoming a new medium of engagement with our neighbours. IIT-Guwahati can become a pivotal centre for the same. Rail, road, air and water transport infrastructure is being developed to boost development in the northeast, Modi said.

He also pointed out to immense possibilities in research in solar, wind, biomass and hydroelectric energy. "Rice, tea, bamboo are indigenous to this region. There is biodiversity in this region as well as huge traditional knowledge," he said.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, and his deputy Sanjay Dhotre were among the dignitaries who were virtually present on the occasion.

# Oppn boycotts Parliament

## DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF FARM BILLS

## LS Speaker calls them for meeting

**New Delhi:** The Opposition on Tuesday boycotted the Lok Sabha session over Centre's refusal to accept its demand for withdrawal of farm Bills passed by Parliament. The lawmakers also protested in solidarity with the eight Rajya Sabha members who were suspended for 'misbehaving' with the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman during farm Bills' debate on Sunday.

Opposition parties, including Congress, TMC, TRC and BSP, walked out of the Lok Sabha, hours after they boycotted the Rajya Sabha proceedings in the day.

"You have compelled us to do so," Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said in the Lok Sabha as Opposition boycotted the House.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is holding a meeting in the Parliament premises with leaders of Opposition, including Congress' Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and NCP's Supriya Sule after the parties boycotted Tuesday's session.

The Rajya Sabha on Sunday passed the two key farm Bills - Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, amid protests and ruckus in the House.

Continued on Page 5



Congress MP Ghulam Nabi Azad and other Opposition MPs after a walkout from the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday

## Chai pe charcha with suspended MPs

**New Delhi:** The sit-in protest by eight suspended MPs on the Parliament premises continued for the second day on Tuesday, with Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh offering them tea in the morning. The suspended parliamentarians spent the night in the lawns near Mahatma Gandhi's statue. Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh posted a picture on Twitter from the protest site in the morning and said that the "whole night was spent under the open sky in front of Bapu's statue". The RS deputy chairman, the leaders



RS Dy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh with suspended MPs

said, came in bright and early with a posse of news cameras and was told by a senior

MP to visit them without the cameras and sit with them.

Continued on Page 5

# Kejri targets Centre over farm Bills

## Lauds protest by suspended RS MPs

**New Delhi:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday targeted the government over the passage of the "dangerous" farm Bills without division of votes in the Rajya Sabha, while lauding the sit-in protest on the Parliament premises by the eight suspended MPs.

The eight Rajya Sabha members, including AAP MP Sanjay Singh, were suspended for the remaining part of the Monsoon Session over "unruly behaviour" during the passage of the farm Bills in the Upper House of Parliament.

The other MPs are Derek O'Brien (TMC), Rajeev Satav (Congress), Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M), K K Ragesh (CPI-M), Syed Nazir Hussain (Congress), Ripun Boren

(Congress) and Dola Sen (TMC).

Kejriwal said these eight MPs were fighting for the rights of farmers without worrying about heat, mosquitoes or other inconveniences and have spent the night protesting in the Parliament complex. "They are not asking for anything for themselves. They are fighting for democracy and the Constitution. They are struggling for the farmers of the country," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

"Such a dangerous Bill was passed without division of votes. Then what is the meaning of Parliament, what is the meaning of elections? If you have to pass the law this way, then why did you call a Parliament session," Kejriwal asked in another tweet in Hindi.



## BAN ON POLITICAL, SOCIAL GATHERINGS IN DELHI TILL SEPT 30

PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** The DDMA has banned all social, cultural and political gatherings and congregations in Delhi till September 30. In view of several protests against farm Bills in the city, the Delhi Police also said demonstrations cannot be allowed till September 30, citing an earlier order of DDMA which prohibits such activities.

Continued on Page 5

# Centre pats Telangana for auditing GPs

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Telangana's financial audit exercise of Accounts of Gram Panchayats, for proper maintenance of records by the local bodies to improve transparency and accountability and also to get 15th Finance Commission grants without any hassles, has drawn the appreciation of the Union government.

Telangana has so far raised 26,700-odd objections and observations in 3,450 GPs of the targeted 3,830 Panchayats, which is 30 per cent of total GPs in the state (12,769). Compare this with Andhra Pradesh where only 3,941 observations have been recorded until September 17. Other states are yet to seriously focus on the task given by the Centre while Telangana

went far ahead with no other state anywhere near to it.

States were told to ensure a mandatory online audit of a minimum of 20 per cent GPs through Audit Online (a web-based application) during the present financial year (2020-21) and from 2021-22 this needs to be scaled up to cover 100 Panchayats across all tiers in the 28 states for the Central Finance Commission Grants.

This application not only facilitates the auditing of accounts but also ensures maintaining audit records that have been carried out.

According to Telangana State Audit Department Director M Venkateshwar Rao, the Audit Online process is being done in 20 per cent of the total 2,53,125 Gram Panchayats in the country this financial year.

Continued on Page 5

# More than ₹1 cr used to manage protests

**New Delhi:** A recent chargesheet filed by Special Cell of the Delhi Police in connection with the alleged conspiracy in the Delhi riots case revealed that five accused, slapped with the stringent UAPA, received Rs 1.61 crore to execute the conspiracy.

On September 16, the police filed a voluminous charge sheet against the accused under various sections of UAPA, Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. The copy of the chargesheet was supplied to their counsels on Monday.

In the chargesheet, the police claimed that five persons, including evicted municipal councillor Tahir Hussain, former councillor Ishrat Jahan, student Meeran Haider, activist Khalid Saifi and Shifa-ur-Rehman, received Rs 1.61 crore as cash or bank transaction, out of which Rs 1.48 crore was used to manage the protest sites and execute the conspiracy of riots.

The chargesheet was filed in little less than 200 days

## Reveals chargesheet filed in Delhi riots case

of filing an FIR to investigate the conspiracy angle behind the riots that rocked northeast Delhi in February this year. Clashes between the citizenship law supporters and protesters had spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and



around 200 injured. Besides mentioning the financial transaction, the police also expanded on how the riots were "engineered". They said that a secret conspiratorial meeting was held on February 16-17 February midnight and it was then that the "key conspirators made up their mind that the final show down of the pan Delhi protests will be executed in northeast, Shahdara, south districts with the areas of Chand Bagh and Jafrabad as the initial hotspots." Continued on Page 5

# UGC directs colleges to reopen on Nov 1

**New Delhi:** The delayed academic session for freshers in universities and colleges will begin from November 1, and the winter break this year, the summer vacation in 2021 and other holidays would be curtailed to compensate for the time lost, according to the University Grants Commission.

The guidelines by an expert committee, set up for revising the academic calendar in view of Covid-19 pandemic, have been accepted by the UGC and accordingly universities have been recommended a six-day teaching learning schedule every week.

"In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission has accepted the Report of the Committee and approved the UGC

## Curtails winter, summer vacations



Guidelines on Academic Calendar for the First Year of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students of

the Universities for the Session 2020-21," Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' tweeted. The UGC had in April released an alternative academic calendar for colleges to reopen, with guidelines on exams, mode of study and the schedule.

At that time, the plan was to reopen colleges from September, but it could not materialise due to a continuing surge in coronavirus cases. As per the revised calendar, the admission process for first year students needs to be completed by October 31 and classes for the first semester should commence by November 1.

In order to compensate for the loss of academic time, the UGC has asked colleges to teach six days a

week and shorten the winter break this year and the summer break next year. "The universities are requested to compensate the delay in the start of academic session in the subsequent years by curtailing the breaks/vacations so that this batch of students would get their final results for award of degree timely," the guidelines said.

"The start of first year of academic session 2020-2021 is delayed due to the circumstances beyond control but efforts be made to compensate the loss of this period by curtailing the breaks (Summer, Winter etc). This would ensure that these students would timely complete their 3-year UG/PG programmes," the UGC guidelines said. Continued on Page 5



# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**DIVYA DUTTA**  
**@DIVYADUTTA25**

All set for  
pranayam!!  
breathe!!



## Janhvi Kapoor to walk for Manish Malhotra at digital ICW

PUJA GUPTA

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor will be closing the show for veteran designer Manish Malhotra at the grand finale of first-ever digital India Couture Week on Wednesday.

Talking about the virtual show, Malhotra shares, "It's a complete new experience to showcase my collection on a digital medium. The essential madness of runways will be missing, but I guess, it will be a new learning."

**"The madness of runways would be missing this year but it is going to be a new learning"**  
**— Manish Malhotra**

I'm happy to have Janhvi walking for the show. I've known her from her childhood and am currently working with her on a movie project. She has an inherent style that's so reflective of late Sridevi's character. It's always fun to work with her."

The collection explores masterful embroideries from Rajasthan, Ahmedabad, Kutch that are re-interpreted in the signature aesthetic and style of the designer.

"The collection constitutes a big identity of Indian cultural nuance with rare, never-seen, and never-used before archival fabrics that bring forth the real repertoire from the Punjabi and Awadh provinces. The collection breaks-away from the aesthetics of fast-fashion and aims to revive the slow and purist workmanship of our indigenous craftsmen and artisans. It seeks to recall our age-old craft and techniques while keeping the first line of inspiration from the most enduring facets of our indigenous living," he concludes.

### QUICK TIP

### Take note of your partner's nonverbal cues

So much of our communication is transmitted by what we don't say. Nonverbal cues, which include eye contact, tone of voice, posture, and gestures such as leaning forward, crossing your arms, or touching someone's hand, communicate much more than words. When you can pick up on your partner's nonverbal cues or body language, you'll be able to tell how they really feel and be able to respond accordingly. For a relationship to work well, each person has to understand their own and their partner's nonverbal cues. Your partner's responses may be different from yours.



# NO EXCUSES FOR WORK

RANI DEVALLA

In times of the pandemic, many moms learnt to keep themselves occupied and engage in activities they are passionate about. Following their fitness routine, is one of the activities that has gained prominence.

Working out in times of the pandemic is not an easy task, especially when your day is packed with an endless to-do list while taking care of the children, cooking and running errands. It becomes all the more challenging when the husband is staying in a different destination altogether to meet professional demands. But for these busy moms, there is no compromise on their workout session for apparent reasons.

At 44, Sailaja Singh, a freelance interior designer, enjoys her work out session. To drive away monotony, she prefers a cyclic fitness regimen which includes, 'gymming', swimming, practising aerobics or Zumba.

"With my husband working in Thailand and two sons, studying Class XI and XII, to look after, I realised that I need to feel great about myself to ensure that I give a happier life to my family. I consider the time I invest in exercising is the best part of the day. After an hour-long workout, I feel completely charged. But yes, you need to feel connected with the fitness routine you opt for which should eventually make you happy from within so that you don't feel like giving up," reasons Sailaja, adding that even during her monthly cycle, she prefers walking.

From 83 to 64 kilos, Ch Sind-



Faiz Begum



Sailaja Singh



Ch Sindhoori

Fit-ness studio never gets tired of imparting fitness lessons to her ardent students in Sentao, Zumba and Zoca, among other fitness forms.

A fitness freak herself, Faiz says that it's not easy to handle things alone, taking care of her 12-year-old son Ishaan while her husband is employed in Lusaka, Zambia. But her passion for fitness made her the most sought-after instructor among many moms. Currently, she provides fitness training online.

"I invest four to five hours in fitness training for my students located in different parts of the world. Staying fit gains larger

relevance than ever before. And every individual should dedicate time for it in whatever regimen they feel comfortable with," opines Faiz, who insists on maintaining consistency while achieving fitness goals.

Despite 11 years of training, certified Zumba instructor with seven specialisations to her credit and a certified Zoca instructor, Faiz Begum of Faiz

hoori, 36, has come a long way in maintaining herself. Since her husband stays in the US for professional reasons, her days are normally filled with so many things to focus on. Despite being a full-time mom for her two daughters and catering to the needs of her in-laws, Sindhoori never skips her fitness routine.

Giving a tough competition to her daughters in maintaining fitness, she shares, "For me, exercising is the 'me-time' which I will not give up for any reason. I

think in 24 hours, making time for your workout should not be taxing at all. Today, I am emotionally much stronger. Gaining extra pounds invariably leaves an impact on one's mental health. Healthy eating and exercising are a great combo to enhance our immunity level, particularly during the pandemic."

imalist with a traditional twist." The collection comprises tone-on-tone lehengas, anarkalis, sarees, sharara and gharara in hand-woven chanderi fabric, heavily embellished with zari, block printing, gota patti, patch and zardozi work in floral and geometrical motifs that give it all the bling required for traditional evening celebrations. The colour palate ranged between baby pinks, fuchsia to reds. "The collection is a mix of four ever merg-

## Reynu Taandon's twist to traditional wedding weaves

PUJA GUPTA

Designer Reynu Taandon's latest couture collection 'Surkh' draws inspiration from contemporary Indian brides who like to mix modern and minimalistic designs with old world charm.

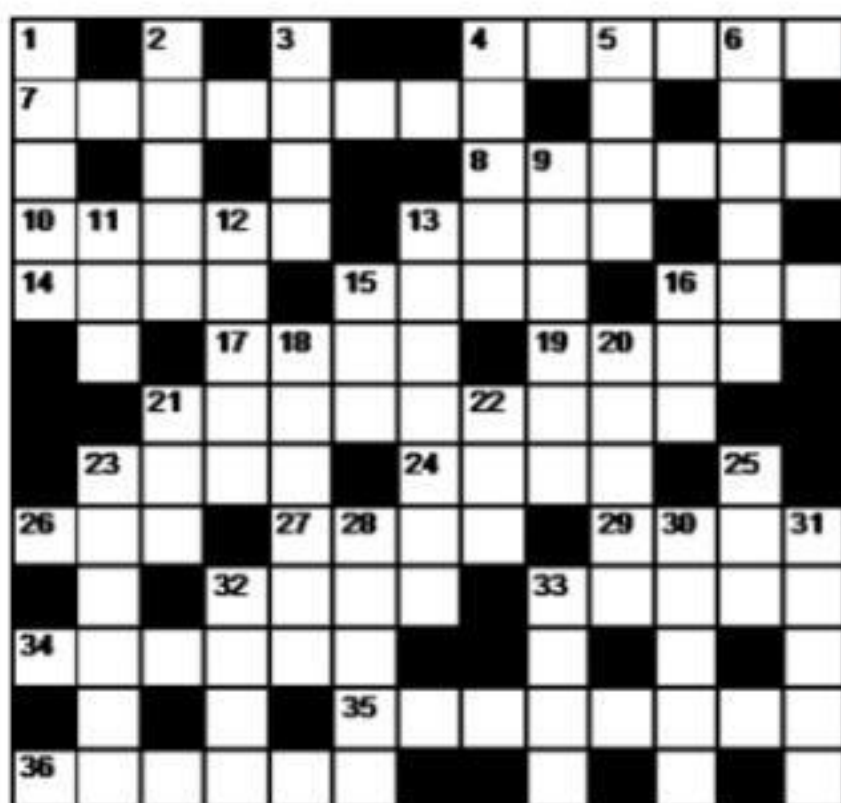
The designer held a virtual launch of wedding wear on Monday, Day 4 of the ongoing digital India Couture Week, organised by the Fashion Design Council of India.

Reynu says, "I want my brides to look elegant and maintain the old world wedding charm in a contemporary way and thus I have named my collection, 'Surkh'. Surkh is an expression of keeping your values in this contemporary world, where every bride wants to dress herself as a traditional 'dulhan'. It is a collection that draws its inspiration from the contemporary bride, a girl that re-conceives fashion with all that's modern and min-

### The designer launched her collection 'Surkh' on Day 4 of the ongoing digital India Couture Week

imalist with a traditional twist." The collection comprises tone-on-tone lehengas, anarkalis, sarees, sharara and gharara in hand-woven chanderi fabric, heavily embellished with zari, block printing, gota patti, patch and zardozi work in floral and geometrical motifs that give it all the bling required for traditional evening celebrations. The colour palate ranged between baby pinks, fuchsia to reds. "The collection is a mix of four ever merg-

ing yet distinct colours. They have been selected keeping in mind every part of the day and how best it would suit the bride in these wedding times be it a morning, sundowner or an evening wedding," she says.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 22

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 4 Beijing's old name (6)
- 7 Greek maiden of legend (8)
- 8 Informal garment (1-5)
- 10 The ones here (5)
- 13 Put to sea (4)
- 14 Lockmaker of note (4)
- 15 Band or group (4)
- 16 Fish (3)
- 17 Stringed instrument (4)
- 19 Wealthy persons - "snob" anagram ? (4)
- 21 Persistent (9)
- 23 Diesel oil, slang (4)
- 24 Male deer (4)
- 26 By way of (3)
- 27 Black, poetically speaking ? (4)
- 29 Aquatic bird (4)
- 32 Fall in the winter (4)
- 33 Capital of Japan (5)
- 34 Edible tuber (6)
- 35 Maud poet (8)
- 36 Advance, upgrade or improve (6)

#### Down

- 1 Dapper (5)
- 2 Chairman's hammer (5)
- 3 \_\_\_\_ about : happened ? (4)
- 4 City in Gujarat famous for its Patola silk saris (5)
- 5 Eastern eye makeup (4)
- 6 Drug peddlers (6)
- 9 Gentleman (italian) (6)
- 11 Possesses (3)
- 12 Break off (5)
- 13 Figure-skating jump (7)
- 15 Tibetan gazelle (3)
- 16 Eye network (3)
- 18 Devise (6)
- 20 Money paid out (5)
- 21 Afternoon drink (3)
- 22 Bond creator Fleming (3)
- 23 Repudiate (6)
- 25 Travel by air (3)
- 28 Compartment (5)
- 30 Imperial decree from Russian (5)
- 31 Oddballs; eccentric persons (5)
- 32 Indian garment (4)
- 33 Add colour (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 22

### NEWS ROUNDUP

### Shweta Basu Prasad did her make-up for 'Comedy Couple'

Actress Shweta Basu Prasad did her make-up for the film, Comedy Couple, and says the process is like painting.

"I do my make up always, since the last few years now. I do my own makeup, because I understand what my character requires and also I enjoy my own make up. It's like painting," said Shweta.

"I learnt from nobody, (I am) self taught," she added. Shweta along with actor Saqib Saleem resumed shooting for the film in Delhi and Gurgaon, amid safety measures.

Directed by Nachiket Samant, the film is a com-rom based in Gurgaon and is set against the backdrop of the burgeoning stand-up comedy scene in the city. Based on a story by Bikas Mishra, the film has screenplay by Raghav Kakkar and Kashyap Kapoor. It will drop on Zee5 soon.





# SC asks CBSE, UGC to ensure admission to students giving compartment exams

**New Delhi (PTI):** SC asks CBSE, UGC to ensure admission to students giving compartment exams. The Supreme Court on Tuesday suggested that the CBSE declare the results of compartment examination expeditiously and asked the UGC to ensure that students get admission in colleges saying "these are exceptional times".

The top court asked CBSE and UGC to work in tandem to ensure that the careers of two lakh students giving the compartment exams, from September 22 to 29, are not jeopardised.

During the hearing, the top court earlier asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) not to declare the academic calendar till September 24 but was

later told that the calendar has been released.

Taking a serious view of the release of academic calendar, the top court sought explanation from the UGC, to be given on Thursday, and directed that it be placed on record.

"At what time and which date it was released, you will have to show this," the bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna said.

"Don't give us vague dates. Give us the date and time when it was released. Whether it was after the order, before the order or when the matter was being heard. We will examine that," it added.

The bench posted the matter on September 24 and asked both

CBSE and UGC to coordinate to accommodate around two lakh students giving the compartment examinations.

At the outset, senior advocate Vivek Tankha, appearing for one of the petitioners, said that CBSE compartment exams have commenced on Tuesday and will continue up to September 29 and nearly two lakh students will appear in the compartment exams.

Tankha said that UGC is also here and the CBSE should come out with the results at the earliest.

"The UGC has to give us (students appearing in compartment exams) a chance to take admissions in universities," he said.

Tankha argued that CBSE has to declare results early and UGC

has to give us a chance of taking admission in colleges otherwise our one year will be lost.

The bench asked Tankha that without CBSE declaring the results how can UGC accommodate the students.

The senior lawyer contended that after the results are declared, UGC can give the students a chance to take admissions in colleges as the students are appearing in the exams during the pandemic times.

The bench asked UGC that because of peculiar situation it is possible for the commission to have some route open for accommodating these students who are appearing in compartment exams.

To this, the counsel for UGC

said that it can be done, if the seats are vacant but he will have to take instructions.

The bench then told the counsel to take instructions and see whether these issues can be taken care of by the commission while asking when UGC intends to keep its cut-off date for admission.

The counsel replied that he has to take instruction but it may be October end.

Counsel for CBSE argued that there are 1,248 exam centres and answer sheets have to be brought to the regional centres.

The top court said that these are not normal times but exceptional times and CBSE has to take steps as the career of two lakh students is too big.



## India, China agree to continue talks: Beijing

**Beijing:** Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said that the sixth round of corps commander-level talks with India was held on September 21 wherein both countries agreed to continue talks and discussion on the border issue.

Global Times quoted Spokesperson Wang Wenbin as saying, "China and India held the 6th round of corps commander-level talks, in which the two sides exchanged their views on the current border situation before agreeing to continue talking and discussing on the issue."

14 Corps Chief Lt Gen Harinder Singh and his likely successor Lt Gen PGK Menon along with a Joint Secretary from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had attended the meeting from the Indian side at Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control.

The meeting started on Monday at around 10 am and went on till 11 pm. The Corps Command-



ers of the two sides met after more than a month as both sides had been engaged in at least three firing incidents that have taken place along the LAC.

The Corps Commanders met at the Moldo hut opposite Chushul on the Indian side.

Prior to the meeting, the agenda and issues of the Indian side were discussed and finalized during a high-level meeting at-

tended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane, last week on Friday.

The talks happened at a time when the Indian side has also occupied six major hill features which are helping the Indian Army to be in dominating positions on heights.

## All Swaminathan panel proposals implemented: Minister

**New Delhi (IANS):** Amid the opposition uproar over the three agriculture-related Bills, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said that the Modi government had accepted the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations for the agricultural sector in toto and implemented all of them.

All the recommendations made by the Commission in its five-part report in 2006 were accepted by this government to transform the agricultural sector and the state of farmers in the country, Shekhawat, who is also the General Secretary of the BJP's Farmers Wing, said at a media briefing here.

"Prof MS Swaminathan has himself accepted that it is the first time a government at the Centre has shown concern for the agriculture sector and worked for the welfare of farmers," he said.

Shekhawat said that the Modi government had taken a number of measures since 2014 for the welfare of farmers like increase in Minimum Support Price



(MSP) and procurement of food grains, oilseeds and pulses, strengthening of irrigation network and improvement in credit facilities.

The National Commission on Farmers was set up in November 2004 under the chairmanship of MS Swaminathan to address farmers' suicides in India. The panel is popularly known as the Swaminathan Commission.

The Minister said that it was the Modi government's commitment to ensure procurement of maximum agricultural produce by state agencies and to double the income of farmers by giving

them MSPs of over 50 per cent on production cost.

Shekhawat also pointed out that the MSP of wheat and rice in the 2020-21 season had increased by 40 and 43 per cent respectively in comparison with 2013-14, while it jumped by over 32 per cent in case of peanuts and 65 per cent in case of gram.

He added that the number of government procurement centres had also increased by over 77 per cent from nearly 36,000 during the earlier United Progressive Alliance regime to about 64,000 now.

"Since we have evolved from a

food-deficit to a food-sufficient country, our government has also moved from a production-centric to profitability-centric approach. We want our farmers to get the maximum remunerative price for their produce," the Minister said.

The Rajya Sabha on Sunday cleared the Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. The Lok Sabha had earlier passed the two Bills.

The Bills will now go to the President for his assent.

While the government calls it a "watershed moment" vis-a-vis agricultural reforms, the opposition has termed the proposed laws as "death warrants" for farmers.

As for NDA ally Shiromani Akali Dal opposing the two Bills and Akali leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigning from the Union Cabinet, Shekhawat said the BJP's oldest ally had done so under "political compulsions".



## India records over 1 lakh single-day recoveries

**New Delhi:** India reported over 1 lakh coronavirus recoveries in a single-day for the first time, improving the recovery rate to 80.86 per cent, while fresh cases also dropped below 76,000 after two weeks, according to the Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The data updated at 8 am showed that during the past 24 hours, 1,01,468 COVID-19 patients recuperated, while 75,809 new cases were recorded, pushing the overall figures to 55,62,663 infections and 44,97,867 recoveries.

Also, 1,053 patients died during the period, taking the cumulative death figures to 88,935, the data showed, reporting a COVID-19 case fatality rate of 1.60 per cent.

There are 9,75,861 active coronavirus cases in the country,

which make 17.54 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's single-day coronavirus cases had dipped below 76,000 on September 8 also, when 75,809 cases were reported.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and it went past 50 lakh on September 16.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, a cumulative 6,53,25,779 samples have been tested up to September 21 -- 9,33,185 of them on Monday. The 1,053 new deaths include 344 from Maharashtra, 122 from Karnataka, 88 from Uttar Pradesh, 62 from West Bengal, 60 from Tamil Nadu, 51 from Andhra Pradesh, 47 from Punjab, 37 from Madhya Pradesh and 32 from Delhi.

## Deepika's manager summoned in drugs probe

**New Delhi:** Actor Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash has been summoned for questioning by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) as the anti-drugs agency widens its probe into the alleged Bollywood-drug nexus in the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

Dhurv Chitgopekar, CEO of KWAN talent management where Ms Prakash works, has also been summoned to the NCB office today. While Karishma Prakash has sought time from the agency, Chitgopekar has joined the probe, officials said.

Along with these two, Sushant Rajput's manager Shruti Modi and former talent manager Jaya Saha have also been summoned, officials added. Ms Saha was questioned for four hours on Monday.

These summons have been issued in connection with the first case the agency registered based on the retrieved WhatsApp messages from Rhea Chakraborty's mobile that allegedly revealed conversations on buying drugs for Rajput, who she dated months before his death on June 14.



### Rhea to stay in jail till Oct 6

**Mumbai:** A special court here on Tuesday extended till October 6 the judicial custody of actress Rhea Chakraborty, who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) probing the drug angle in connection with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

Chakraborty was produced before special judge G B Gurao who extended her judicial custody, said special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande. Other accused arrested in the case will be produced in court on Wednesday, he said.

The special court on September 11 rejected bail pleas of Chakraborty, her brother Showik, and others in the case, noting that there was no "reasonable ground" at present for not connecting the accused with the crime.

## Why the haste: Sharad Pawar

**Mumbai (IANS):** Announcing a day's token fast in support of the suspended Opposition MPs, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar on Tuesday asked why the government was in such a hurry to pass the Farm Bills.

"I have decided to abstain from food and fast today in solidarity with the protesting MPs agitation," said Pawar, a Member of the Rajya Sabha, which witnessed a massive ruckus in the past two days followed by a boycott by the Opposition parties. Pawar addressed mediapersons in Mumbai.

Though well-intentioned, Pawar said he had never seen Bills being passed in such a manner and questioned the haste, especially when the MPs had questions on the Farm Bills.

"Members wanted to ask more questions on the Bills. But, it appears they (the government) did not want any discussion. When the MPs did not get the response, they came to the well of the House," Pawar pointed out.

He said the Deputy Chairman of the Upper House had not adhered to the rules and "the Rajya Sabha Members were expelled for expressing their opinion," said the NCP chief. The Opposition has alleged that the Deputy Chairman

### Oppn could've murdered Dy Speaker: Giriraj Singh

**Patna:** Union Minister Giriraj Singh reacted strongly to the ruckus created in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday over the agriculture reform Bills and claimed that "even the murder of the Rajya Sabha's Deputy Chairman could have happened" if marshals weren't present.

Talking to ANI, Singh raised the suspicion that in the environment, which was created by the Opposition in the Upper House, even the murder of the Rajya Sabha's Deputy Chairman could have happened.

Harivansh -- who was in the chair on Sunday -- helped the government rush the Bills through the Upper House despite lacking the numbers and rejecting the Opposition parties' demands for detailed discussions on the Farm Bills.

## Rape-accused's 'suicide' in custody; NHRC issues notics to cops



**New Delhi (PTI):** The National Human Rights Commission has sent a notice to the Delhi Police commissioner in connection with the alleged suicide of a 40-year-old rape accused in custody, according to a statement.

The man was in lawful custody of the police and his "right to life has been violated and the State cannot escape its liability," the NHRC said, adding that "this is a case of violation of human rights".

"The commission took suo motu cognisance of alleged suicide of 40-year-old rape accused in police custody and directs issuance of notice to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi

calling for a detailed report in the matter within two weeks," the commission said in the statement.

The NHRC has noticed that this case of "custodial death has not been reported" by authorities within 24 hours of its occurrence, and the authorities are expected to explain the reasons, it said.

All the reports, including the inquest and the post-mortem reports accompanying video CDs and medical report, of the deceased before being lodged in the lockup should be forwarded to the commission, the statement said.

The rights panel had also

sought details of the persons, who were put in the lockup in Swarup Nagar police station and Samaypur Badli police station for any reason, during the period the man was lodged.

"It is expected that the magisterial enquiry in the matter will be completed without any further delay," the statement added.

According to media reports, the man was out on parole after being convicted in a case of robbery and murder.

The 40-year-old man had allegedly raped a 14-year-old girl in an outer Delhi locality on September 19 and died allegedly by suicide hours later after being arrested, the

NHRC statement said, quoting media reports.

It is also mentioned in news reports that the family members of the deceased saw policemen beating him in the police station.

The deputy commissioner of police, Outer North District, Delhi, has stated the history about the deceased, being accused and convicted for robbery and murder and sexually assaulting a 10-year-old boy. He was released on parole on February 2 this year and later, his parole period was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

Also, news reports state that the single mother of the 14-

year-old girl was not at home when the incident took place.

The man was arrested on the allegations of rape under POCSO Act, and was kept in police custody. His nephew has reportedly stated that when he reached the Swarup Nagar police station, he saw a group of policemen beating his uncle, the statement said.

The next day, the family was informed about the incident of a man hanging himself at Samaypur Badli police station.

The deputy commissioner of police reportedly stated that the CCTV camera footage has been preserved and the guard on duty has been placed on suspension, it added.



## IPO rush in market despite pandemic

Record contraction in the country's GDP and steep rise in Covid-19 cases notwithstanding, India's stock markets are buoyant. From a multi-year low of 25,981 points on March 23 this year after Sensex crashed by a mind-numbing 3,935 points on that dreadful day, the benchmark index bounced back with vengeance and embarked on a long rally that pushed it to 39,044 pts as on September 15. Sensex zoomed by a whopping 13,000 points in that period. Of course, stock markets have been heading south in the past one week, culminating in Sensex's 812 point crash on Monday to 38,034 points. It also ended in red on Tuesday.

But barring occasional declines in benchmark indices, markets continued their upward trajectory despite steep rise in Covid-19 cases in the country. Markets remained undeterred even though the country's GDP contracted by a staggering 23.9 per

cent in the first quarter (April-June 2020) in the current fiscal.

Encouraged by steady rise in key market indices amid low volatility, companies seem to be in a hurry to tap the primary market. That's the reason why initial public offerings (IPOs) are hitting the market at regular intervals in the last few weeks.

Of course, there is pent up demand for IPOs as well, as no company went public during the first quarter due to lockdown and other Covid-related restrictions. Though July witnessed one IPO by a biotech company which raised Rs 496 crore through its initial offer, the primary market again remained silent in August. But September seems to be the busiest month so far this financial year when it comes to initial public offering. So far, this month has witnessed two successful IPOs. Happiest Minds Technologies got listed last week while Route Mobile hit the bourses on Monday. Three more initial offers hit the primary market this week. Among them is Angel Broking, a leading stock brokerage firm, which has come out with Rs 600-crore IPO. Further, two more IPOs are currently in pipeline and may hit the market soon.

One is that of UTI Mutual Fund, the country's oldest mutual fund house. The other one is Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, a public sector unit that builds warships and submarines. In 2020, four companies raised Rs 12,150 crore through IPOs so far. But SBI Cards which went public in early March this year accounted for a lion share as it raised Rs 10,355 crore. Three other companies cumulatively mopped up Rs 1,798 crore. In this period last year, 16 IPOs hit the market, raising Rs 12,000 crore.

With all three IPOs which hit the market post the lockdown, turning out to be successful, more companies are likely to tap the primary markets later this year. It is said that a large number of new retail investors came into the market in the last five months. That's what the market rally in recent months indicates. These new retail investors also played a key role in the success of recent public issues.

However, rising Covid-19 cases will definitely weigh on the stock markets. Delay in Covid vaccine may further dampen the market sentiment. If that happens, IPOs may also face problems. But as of now, the stock market seems to be a happy hunting ground for those companies which look to go public.



## Artisans stare at penury as no buyers for Ravana effigies

MOHAMMAD SUAIB KHAN

With the festival of Dussehra still around a month away, artisans who earn their livelihood by making effigies of demon king Ravana, his brother Kumbhkarana, son Meghnada and others are staring at a bleak future as there are no buyers this time for their artefacts in the largest effigy market in Titarpur in Delhi.

Disappointment is writ large on the faces of both artisans and traders in the Titarpur market adjacent to Tagore Garden as buyers are few and far between, amid the uncertainties due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In normal times, one could see scores of artisans busy making effigies of the demon king and others many weeks ahead of Dussehra year after year. The craftsmen could be seen toiling in the sun to give shapes to the effigies of different sizes and colours on the roadsides, parks, and even terraces of houses in Titarpur. But such scenes have vanished this year amid the pandemic.

Traders rued that the pandemic played a spoilsport for their brisk business expectations this year since the sale was also lukewarm the previous year due to the ban on firecrackers at many places. As a result, the traders had suffered heavy losses.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the 'bhoomi puja' of the new Ram temple at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, effigy traders were hopeful that people will celebrate Dussehra this year on a grand scale. But traders fear this is unlikely to happen in 2020.

It is pertinent to mention here that before Dussehra, hundreds of craftsmen from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana trooped in at Titarpur, and worked day and night to make effigies as per the orders placed by customers.

According to the traders, effigies of Ravana and others were burnt by the thousands in Delhi every year, but this time not even a single order to make such effigies had been placed so far. All artisans and craftsmen were sitting idle as a result, they griped.

Pawan, 45, said he had been making effigies since the age of 12, which ranged from five feet to 60 feet every year. "Ravana effigies made by me were even sent to Australia. Every year, I made more than 50 Ravana effigies, which were then transported to different places across the country for burning on Dussehra," he recalled.

Pawan told IANS: "Every year, I used to receive orders from many places to make the effigies. But this year, I have received not even a single call. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our work has come to a standstill. Every year, we used to collect whole year's earnings ahead of Dussehra. But this year, it is not so."

"My whole family has been doing this work for years. We eagerly awaited the festive season earlier on. But this time, we all have been forced to sit idle at home. We are now anxious as to how we will spend the whole year with meagre earnings."

"Last year, the ban on firecrackers impacted our business. I am repaying the debt to this day. This year, I had high hopes since the 'bhoomi puja' of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple was also performed. We felt that this year's Dussehra will be celebrated in grand style but it does not seem so," Pawan added.

Another effigy-maker Ram Gopal said: "Labour and artisans from Himachal Pradesh, Moradabad, Bareilly, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan used to come here and make effigies. But this time, all of them are not even stepping out of their home states."

"We don't have any other work, nor can we do any other job besides effigy-making. We eagerly waited for the Dussehra season -- this is how our family earned a living. We request the central government to think about our well-being," he said.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, uncertainty looms large over whether the authorities will allow the burning of effigies on Dussehra this year. The artisans and traders, meanwhile, prefer to keep their fingers crossed and look heavenward for divine succour.

# Antecedents of anti-Muslim bias in media

SAEED NAQVI

There have been many but let me cite just two reactions from the family to Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K.M. Joseph's utterances restraining Sudarshan TV from telecasting its 'UPSC Jihad' show. A relative mailed a couplet comprehensive in its simplicity:

*'Door insaan ke sar se yeh musibat kar do  
Aag dozakh ki bujha do, use jannat kar do'  
(Remove this menace hovering over our heads,  
Douse the leaping flames of hell; make it a paradise)*

"Leaping flames of hell": that is how a majority of Indian TV shows register with petrified Muslims. TV news is daily mortification; lynchings happen outdoors. The Supreme Court's quest for "some mechanism" for self regulation of the media brings her hope. "Cricket will be played within a well measured boundary?" Not too much to expect.

The other reaction, from a younger relative is more cynical: if the Supreme Court had sharp instincts, it would have taken suo motu note of the outrage, before Sudarshan TV was able to telecast even one episode.

Incipient communalism was part of the Republic from the very beginning. Contentious issues on that score, however, did not come up when the electronic media consisted only of Doordarshan. DD, launched in the mid-70s, faced roadblocks too -- as in the screening of Tamas, based on a novel by Bhishm Sahni, directed by Govind Nihalani. Centered on Partition, the director pulls no punches on exposing communalism on all sides. Since Hindu communalism had never been placed under the scanner with such candour in independent India, there was a furore. Screening was stopped. Only when Justices Bakhtawar Lentin and Sujata Manohar of Bombay High Court cleared the serial was it screened.

The Sudarshan TV's "UPSC Jihad" is, in the words of Justice Chandrachud, a "rabid" vilification of Muslims. The channel felt encouraged to cross the red line because this particular line is considered Kosher in the current political atmosphere by mainstream channels as well as fly-by-night media operators.

An anti Muslim edge is a perceived requirement of Modi's march towards Hindu Rashttra. But an anti Muslim edge in the media has antecedents which predate Modi. Four apparently disparate



**Remember, when the Babri Masjid fell in December 1992, there was only Doordarshan to televise the news. About this time, Mandal versus Kamandal, caste versus communalism spiralled out of control. It is pointless speculating whether a mushroom growth of channels went some distance in amplifying the new, energetic, communal politics.**

All prime ministers of India, from 1947 to the mid-90s, depended on traditional forms of mass mobilization, prior to the TV era. A more media savvy Prime Minister than Narendra Modi there has not been. He played all the strings to arrange for himself a saturation coverage of the 2014 and 2019 elections with expert ease. Crony capitalism was essential and it was easily managed.

Having brought down the Soviet Union, the US put its imprimatur on a Unipolar World Order by embarking on operation Desert Storm in February 1992. In some ways, Desert Storm bared the plans the US had for the future. The most important of these, pertinent to our narrative, was the inauguration of the Global Electronic Media which the Pentagon planned with such stealth that even an arch ally like the UK found itself flat footed. BBC's senior correspondent, John Simpson walked around Baghdad with a lowly satellite telephone while Peter Arnett of the CNN launched the New World Information order from the terrace of Baghdad's Al Rasheed hotel. For the first time in history, a war was brought live into our drawing rooms.

The unprecedented fire power which I saw from the 14th floor of Al Mansour hotel, remained a nightmare for months. This frightful exhibition, let it always be remembered, divided the world in perpetuity into two hostile sets of audience -- the triumphant West and the defeated Muslim world, humiliated yet again. Had multiple channels been operational in India (they were not in 1991-92), would they have been cheering Western victory or Muslim defeat? It would have been bad form to pose this query then? Please note how times have changed and why the Supreme Court's intervention is timely.

The Post 9/11 war on terror transformed itself into a crusade against Islam. Journalistic restraint became a casualty. Geraldo Rivera of Fox News flourished a revolver in front of a TV camera in October 2001 in Afghanistan. "Should I see Osama bin Laden anywhere, I shall finish him off with this," said he, his finger on the trigger. The copycat Indian media, now in a phase of rapid expansion, picked up every inflection.

## LETTERS

### LRS is a penalising attempt

People have bought plots in the past after following the govt rules existing at the time of registration. The developers or the individuals had obtained layout sanctioned by the panchayats of the plots existing in villages. Now the point is, why plot owners should get faulted and are to get LRS approved by the govt by paying necessary fees when they followed the rules and got their plots registered legally as per the rules existing then?

If govt wants to regularise the layouts to be in tune with HMDA layout, they should do by themselves, not by levying fees on the owners as they in no way flouted the rules and the plots are registered in their names and possessing the plots legally registered by the govt.

It is like stating that people who passed the various educational degrees in the past have to reappear for revised exams again as per the new syllabus failing which the degrees obtained earlier would become invalid and illegal which is so illogical and illegal.

If govt wants revenue, they can raise through other taxes, not through Land Regularisation scheme which owners of the plots are in no way responsible as the plots are registered by the Registrar Office of the govt then, only after due verification of the compliance of the rules framed by the govt then.

This is a fit case for legal remedy as there is the injustice on the part of the govt to raise money illegally through LRS from plot owners who followed the rules and got their plots registered by the govt

A M Daniel, Hyderabad

### II

The LRS and BRS are not new schemes. Earlier too the then government had regularised the unapproved layouts and buildings by collecting huge amounts. The TRS government has come out to regularise unapproved layouts giving final chance for regularisation.

There are lot of layouts approved by DTCP, HMDA, HUDA and Gram Panchayats. Some layouts were sanctioned under farmhouses. The plot holders even constructed the houses and paid necessary charges along with development charges to obtain permission from respective local authorities and paying house taxes. The government should clarify the status of such layouts.

Surender Kumar Malla, Hyderabad

### Our favourite daily

We are very happy to be your newspaper readers for past six years. In fact, my late mother used to enjoy it till her passing away in 2015. We now read your newspaper with glee for its good news coverage, apart from articles by Dr IYR Krishna Rao, Bharat Jhunjunwala and Mohan Kanda to name a few. Your views on the editorial perch seem to have a very good understanding of the current topics both of national and international significance.

I would request you to cover certain major Hyderabad areas with civic and related issues faced by residents, and also meet the Corporators and seek their input through your newspaper. Please include areas like Malkajgiri, Ameerpet, Mehdiapatnam, LB Nagar on a daily basis. On the other hand, water levels in major reservoirs in the state has been a major concern. Please include water levels in Telangana like Singur, Nizamsagar, SRSP, Manjira, Lower and Mid Manair on a weekly basis. Hope to look forward to new changes like this that will help us know about our Hyderabad.

N Venkataraman, Hyderabad

### A great mistake

The Modi government can try to defend the passage of the farm bills in the Rajya Sabha in the manner they were passed and brazen it out in the current political climate, but it was wrong - there are no two ways about it. No amount of obfuscation would make it right. The government relies on these new farm laws to say that the future is looking rosy for our farmers. But there are legitimate concerns over the beneficial effects of these dubious laws. Who exactly stands to benefit from these laws merits an analysis. When the new

laws are put into effect they would mark the retreat of the government from a sphere where its role is very much needed to protect farmers from exploitation and the abandonment of farmers to the mercies of big agribusinesses. Initially, the private players would provide farmers some benefits to wean them away from APMC mandis and induce their collapse. Once they gain monopoly over the market and maximize profits, farmers will lose their bargaining power and suffer a sharp dip in their incomes. A government obligated to protect the interests of farmers cannot leave them in the lurch.

It is a reasonable demand that no farmer market - private or government-run - should be allowed to trade below the MSP. One is at a loss to understand why the government is so hesitant to make MSP a legal entitlement. A clause or provision to this effect in the farm laws will allay the fears of farmers and actualize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance. The government can resolve the problem by giving a legal guarantee of MSP, say 50 per cent more than the cost of production as recommended by Dr M S Swaminathan.

We oppose the new laws because they have the potential to create a scenario in which farmers have to contend with lesser incomes and more distress and the diminution of their freedom to have their own farming style, methods of farming, grow crops of their choice and use fertilizers they deem best. Farmers alone know what farming is all about; the government must consult farmers and defer to what they want and make changes in the farm laws accordingly.

G.David Milton, Maruthancode

### Needless drama by Oppn

While the Opposition is continuing with their irrational protests inside and out the Parliament -- the two farm Bills have been passed in the Rajya Sabha, amid ruckus and unruly behaviour by the Congress, Trinamool and Left parties, resulting in the suspensions of eight MPs for their despicable and vandal behaviour.

The Centre has repeatedly assured the members, and the farming community, of the advantages that these Bills will help accrue in terms of empowerment of farmers, having no effect on the Minimum Support Price on farm produce, which is being repeatedly enhanced during the NDA rule. The Bill

has nothing to do with prevailing mandis and marketplaces that are in the country. The Opposition is misleading the nation on several false narratives about the Bill, without being able to substantiate their claim. The Centre in fact is in the process of implementing the Swaminathan Committee Report that is pending for so many decades, ignored by the Congress. It is important for the Opposition to desist from the needless drama it is enacting to be critical of the Bills, which is a sure way for farmers becoming self-sufficient financially to double their income by the year 2022.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

### Atal tunnel, an engineering marvel

One of the greatest Indian engineering marvels of the new millennium - the Atal tunnel, the world's longest high altitude tunnel is all set to be formally inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi during the first week of October. It was last year that the PM decided to name Rohtang passageway as Atal Tunnel to mark the 95th birth anniversary of former prime minister who played a vital role in making a dream come true and laid its foundation during his tenure.

The decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken on June 03, 2000 when late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The foundation stone for the access road to the south end of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002. The nine kilometre Rohtang Pass tunnel is the world's longest tunnel which is above an altitude of 3,100 metres.

Built under the supervision of the BRO at a cost of Rs 3500 crores the tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kilometres and save crores of rupees in transport costs. It has world class amenities like hi tech telecommunication service, emergency exits, turning caverns, air quality monitoring equipment, broadcasting system, CCTV monitoring to detect incidents inside the tunnel and other arrangements making it one of the ultra-modern and one of the safest tunnel to travel. Besides enhancing tourism influx it will also enhance national security transportation.

M Pradyu, Kannur

thehansreader@gmail.com



# BJP vows ‘Samrudh Andhra’

- Addressing new office bearers of state party, party chief Veerraju says besides coming into power in the State, the saffron party wants to make it ‘self-sufficient Andhra (Samrudh Andhra)’
- Vows to continue fight the state govt on issues like attacks on Hindu temples
- Pays tributes to party workers who succumbed to Covid while carrying out relief programmes during pandemic on a call given by PM

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** BJP state president Somu Veerraju on Tuesday said that it is not only important for the saffron party to gain power in the state but it should also catapult it to the top position in terms of development.

“As much as it is important for the BJP to come to power in Andhra, it is also important to develop the state,” said Veerraju at the new party office bearers



BJP state president Somu Veerraju addressing a meeting of new state office bearers in Guntur on Tuesday

meeting in Guntur on Tuesday.

He said BJP will continue its fight against the state government on issues like chariot burning at Antarvedi and comments of minister Kodali Nani saying that there was no need for declaration by people belonging to other religions at Tirumala. He demanded that the minister should withdraw his statement as it hurts the sentiments of crores of Hindus. The BJP will

continue its fight against the government on continuous attacks on Hindu religion and temples across the state.

Veerraju said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee came from very humble backgrounds and went on to put India in a strong position in the international community.

“With a similar thought process, today we want to make Andhra a self-sufficient Andhra (Samrudh Andhra) in all aspects,” said the BJP leader.

As part of the meeting, the BJP

paid tributes to party workers who succumbed to the coronavirus and Veerraju unveiled a district Sevahi Sangathan e-book.

“During the difficult pandemic time, party workers conducted many welfare activities on a call given by Modi and party president J P Nadda. This e-book details such activities up to the mandal level,” said a party official.

BJP national joint secretary V Satish, national secretary and co-incharge of Andhra, Sunil Deodhar and others participated in the programme.



Malayappa Swamy on Kalpavruksha vahanam on the fourth day of Brahmotsavam at Tirumala on Tuesday

## Malayappa blesses devotees on Kalpavruksha vahanam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirumala:** With the traditional headgear, holding stick and playing flute Sri Malayappa Swamy blessed devotees attired as Govula Gopanna on the Kalpavruksha vahanam on the day four of the ongoing annual Brahmotsavams in Tirumala on Tuesday.

Flanked by His two consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi, Lord Malayappa graced the Kalpavruksha Vahanam, the

divine wish fulfilling tree.

Legends says that Kalpavruksha was one of the elements that erupted during Samudra Madanam, the famous episode of Srimad Bhagavatam, the churning of the milky ocean.

Those who took shelter under Kalpavruksha will not have problems of starvation and penury. The use of Kalpavruksha vahanam by Lord Venkateswara also denotes the importance given to environ-

ment, greenery and promotion of forests for the pollution-free atmosphere.

Lord Venkateswara who Himself is a ‘Kalpavriksha’ blesses every devotee with boons sought by them. In the evening, Malayappa flanked by his consorts seated on Sarvabhupala Vahanam gave darshan to the devotees. The deities adorned with dazzling ornaments seated on tastefully decorated Sarvabhupala Vahanam enthralled devotees.

## More than ₹1 cr used to manage protests

*Continued from P1*

The chargesheet revealed that there was a clear understanding between the key conspirators who attended this meeting that the protest sites, currently located in side lanes in Muslim dominated areas, would need to be shifted and converted into chakka jaam on carefully chosen sites located on arterial or busy roads in proximity to mixed population areas to paralyze the normal movement of traffic and flow of life and engineer riots.

The chargesheet names Tahir Hussain, Safoura Zargar, Gulfisha Khatoon, Devangana Kalita, Shafa-ur-Rehman, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Natasha Narwal, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Ishrat Jahan, Meeran Haidar, Shadab Ahmad, Talsim Ahmad, Saleem Malik, Mohammed Salim Khan and Athar Khan.

- Patti Bhaskar, working as home guard in Hyderabad, marries Rama Lakshmi in 2016
- He stops bike on a bridge saying that they take a selfie as Kundu river is swirling with flood waters
- Pretending to be taking a selfie, he pushes her into river, he also jumps into it with bike
- He swims back to the shore, but Ramalakshmi washes away for 4 km, before being rescued by farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Kurnool:** The Kovelakuntla police arrested a man for trying to kill his wife by pushing into River Kundu. Fortunately, she was rescued by farmers



Allagadda DSP Pothu Raju along with CI Subba Rayudu giving details of arrest of accused P Bhaskar, at Kovelakuntla police station on Tuesday

and admitted to Uyyalawada government hospital. The incident took place at Gulladurthi village under Kovelakuntla police station limits on Monday. The victim has been identified as Rama Lakshmi and the accused as Patti Bhaskar.

Allagadda DSP Pothu Raju gave details of the arrest to media at Kovelakuntla police station on Tuesday. According to the DSP, Patti Bhaskar, a

resident of Marripalli village in Allagadda mandal is working as a home guard at Intelligence Bureau office in Hyderabad.

He married one Rama Lakshmi, of Kamanuru village in Duvvuru mandal of Kadapa district against the wishes of his parents in 2016. Rama Lakshmi is an orphan. After marrying her, Bhaskar shifted his family to Hyderabad.

However, for reasons unknown, he had decided to eliminate her. He visited his parents at Marripalli along with his wife. After staying there for a day, he told her they would visit Gulladurthi where her brother is staying. While on the way to Gulladurthi, he stopped the bike on a bridge on Kundu river.

Bhaskar said that they would take a selfie as the river was brimming with floodwater. Pretending to be taking a selfie, he pushed her into the river. He also jumped into the river with his bike into water to portray it as an accident. However, he swam to the bank but Rama Lakshmi began was washed away in the floodwater. She was washed away to a distance of four kilometre screaming.

Fortunately, farmers who heard her screams jumped into the river and rescued her. They also shifted her to Uyyalavada government general hospital for treatment on Monday. After Rama Lakshmi regained consciousness, lodged a complaint with Kovelakuntla police, said DSP Pothu Raju.

## Oppn boycotts Parliament

*Continued from P1*

These Bills have already been passed by the Lok Sabha and are awaiting President's nod. The government says that these Bills will help boost the farming sector through private investments.

Earlier in the day, the Opposition parties led by the Congress staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha, demanding that the suspension of eight members be revoked. The Congress was the first to walkout from the House along with members of the Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamool Congress and Left parties. The opposition said the members should have been given a chance to explain and demanded a vote on their suspension, but the Rajya Sabha said the decision was based on a government motion. The Lok Sabha is likely to be adjourned sine die on Wednesday, eight days ahead of the scheduled end of the Monsoon Session, amid concerns of spread of coronavirus among lawmakers, sources said on Tuesday.

### Labour Bills

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha passed three Bills on the labour Code, which were moved by Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar, amid boycott of the House proceedings by the Opposition parties. While moving the Bills for consideration and passage, the Minister said the government has come out with the changes in the legislations after extensive consultations with State governments and other stakeholders.

## Chai pe charcha with suspended MPs

*Continued from P1*

“Another senior MP also told him that while bringing tea was a nice gesture, he was still in the wrong in what he did. He was told that he was the one who broke the rules,” a protesting MP said.

The protesting MPs did not accept the tea and snacks offered by the deputy chairman. Harivansh Singh has been in the thick of things since the suspension drama unfolded. The eight MPs were suspended for the remaining part of the current session over their “misbehaviour” with the deputy chairman during the passage of the farm Bills on Sunday.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu said Deputy Chairman Harivansh, an MP from Bihar, was physically threatened by Opposition MPs on Sunday.

# Lingering Covid fears keep students away from schools

- In the first 2 days, the attendance of students is less than 10%
- Parents are reluctant to send their wards as the virus spread is still rampant
- They are of the view that the revision of previous lessons is not so important when the risk of disease is high

V PRADEEP KUMAR

**Tirupati:** Fears of Covid still haunt the parents and students resulting in poor attendance even on the second day of opening of schools for Class IX and X. The schools in the state were opened on September 21, Monday, after a gap of six months, following the unlock 4.0 guidelines. However, the students of Classes I to VIII need to stay back at homes for some more time.

During the first two days, the attendance of the students was



Students wearing masks and maintaining physical distance attend classes at SV High school in Tirupati on Tuesday

almost negligible with less than 10 per cent. In Chittoor district, about 80,000 students are there under 6,256 schools. Of them, out of 15,520 students of Classes 9-10 in 346 government schools in Tirupati division, only 2,750 students attended on the first day. The private schools are also experiencing very poor attendance.

The Officials were of the view that there was not much varia-

tion in the percentages even on the second day. All the teachers have attended the schools on the first day and if any absentees are there they need to apply for leave, clarified the authorities. From Tuesday, 50 per cent of the teachers are attending the school on alternate days as per the guidelines.

“We are ensuring written consent from all the parents that

they are willing to send their wards to schools. It's true that only a few students have attended schools in the first two days,” said deputy educational officer C Vijayendra Rao.

A parent said that he could not dare to send his daughter to the school when the spread of the coronavirus was so rampant across the district. The government should have waited some more time before opening the schools. He expressed fears that schools may become Covid hotspots and children may fall victims. Apart from this, the transport problem also causes concerns both for parents and their children. They feel that it is not at all safe to travel by autorickshaws sharing it with others. “Only revision of previous class lessons will be made by teachers now. This may not be that important under the present scenario. If necessary, students can also attend those classes online. So there is no point in sending them to schools at this stage,” observed another parent.

## 7,553 fresh cases recorded in State

**Amaravati:** State has reported 10,555 recoveries against 7,553 new Covid-19 cases in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday.

The recovery rate has been showing a steady improvement as more number of Covid-19 patients are getting cured compared to the fresh cases being reported daily.

A Covid-19 bulletin said 51 more patients succumbed to the infection in 24 hours.

The coronavirus chart now read 6,39,302 total cases, 5,62,376 recoveries and 5,461 deaths. The number of active cases plummeted to 71,465 on Tuesday.

The state so far completed 52.29 lakh sample tests at the rate of 97,931 per million population, turning out a positivity rate of 12.22 per cent against the national average of 8.52 per cent.

The recovery rate improved to 87.97 per cent against the national average of 80.86 per cent, while the mortality rate stood at 0.85 per cent compared to the nations 1.60 per cent.

Guntur district crossed the 50,000 cases mark and Kadapa the 40,000 mark on Tuesday.

## Centre pats Telangana for auditing GPs

*Continued from P1*

Telangana, however, has set a target of auditing online in 30 per cent of total GPs. More than 330 auditors of the department have been on this exercise from August onwards. It may be mentioned here that GPs have different funds, including General Fund which is the revenue from property tax, water bills and other services, funds from the state government, and grants from Finance Commission (14th till now...15th from next year onwards).

With a large amount of funds being devolved to the Panchayats under the Central Finance Commission, State Finance Commissions, Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, and State schemes, etc it becomes imperative to put in place an Audit Mechanism in order to carry out an audit of the account-books.

The 15th Finance Commission, in its interim report for 2020-21, has expressed concerns over the unavailability of audited accounts at the local body level. Time and again, several Finance Com-

missions have emphasized the need of audited accounts. For this purpose, it is necessary to ensure the accounts are available online and have a sound audit system. The Audit Online aims to facilitate the financial audit of accounts of GPs in all states. Finance Minister T Harish congratulated the finance/audit department for standing first in the country and becoming a role model for other states. This exercise would go a long way in bringing more accountability in Local Bodies, he felt.

## UGC directs colleges to reopen on Nov 1

*Continued from P1*

“All the universities may follow a 6-day week pattern for the academic session 2020-21 and 2021-2022 to compensate the loss for this batch of students,” it added.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16 when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

## Ban on political, social gatherings in Delhi till Sept 30

*Continued from P1*

In a communication to Delhi government's Deputy home secretary, DDMA additional CEO Rakesh Goyal said the order of the Authority, dated June 6, will continue till September 30. As per the DDMA order on June 6, all social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious, political functions as well as other gatherings and congregations were prohibited throughout NCT of Delhi.

Also, the order restricted marriage related gatherings to 50 persons and funeral and last rites gatherings to 20 persons. “The said position has been continued till September 30, vide DDMA order dated September 3, 2020,” Goyal stated.

“It is therefore quite clear that at present, all social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious, political functions, other gatherings and congregations are prohibited throughout

NCT of Delhi,” he said. The Delhi Police also said in a tweet that all political, cultural and social gatherings in NCT of Delhi will remain suspended till September 30. In fact, in Unlock-4, the Central government has exempted social / religious / political gatherings from September 21 with a maximum of 100 people. In this context, information was sought from the Delhi Police to clear the situation in Delhi by writing a letter to DDMA.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Huge biz potential for energy cos


“IOC to invest Rs 17,825 cr in Gujarat refinery expansion, petchem project. Petrochemical production is a lucrative opportunity for energy companies in India as the per-capita consumption still remains very low  
**– IOC Chairman *Shrikant Madhav Vaidya***



## LIQUIDITY DRIVE

### NSE, SGX sign pact on Connect model

Leading bourse NSE and Singapore Exchange (SGX) have entered into a formal agreement to cement the key terms for operationalising the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect, a move that will deepen liquidity in Nifty products. The NSE International Financial Service Centre-SGX Connect aims to bring together the trading of Nifty products to Gujarat Intl Finance Tech-City (GIFT)

| FOREX (buy rates in ₹) |       |                         |  |
|------------------------|-------|-------------------------|--|
| US Dollar              | 77.99 | South                   |  |
| Euro                   | 90.83 | African Rand5.1         |  |
| UAE Dirham             | 22.03 | Hong Kong Dollar10.92   |  |
| Thai Baht              | 2.7   | Japanese Yen0.81        |  |
| British Pound          | 98.29 | New Zealand Dollar51.53 |  |
| Australian Dollar      | 55.79 | Saudi Riyal21.57        |  |
| Canadian Dollar        | 58.08 | Swedish Krona9.56       |  |
| Swiss Franc            | 83.66 | Singapore Dollar56.72   |  |

DELHI WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### MFCWL opens outlet in TS

**Hyderabad:** Mahindra First Choice Wheels (MFCWL), multi-brand pre-owned cars retailer, launched pre-owned car store under the brand name Automart in Hyderabad. The store is spread across a sprawling 12,000 sq ft area with a separate yard spanning across one acre with a capacity to park 400 vehicles. The new pre-owned cars store will offer customers all the services and facilities that the MFCWL brand represents. "With the launch of this Automart store, we enter the Hyderabad market. The pre-owned car store reflects a buoyed sentiment among our dealers, customers and partners despite the current testing environment. We have introduced new offering for customers like three days exchange and five days money back policy and pan India road-side assistance for vehicles bought from this store," said Ashutosh Pandey, CEO & MD, MFCWL.

### Bajaj Finserv's health venture

**Hyderabad:** Bajaj Finserv Ltd announced the launch of its fully owned subsidiary Bajaj Finserv Health Ltd., (BFHL), a health-tech solutions business, aimed at improving the health outcomes of Indian consumers. With this new venture, the company has now forayed into the healthcare ecosystem, aiming to disrupt the health segment and make healthcare experience convenient and all-inclusive for consumers. The new venture brings to the market its core offering - 'Aarogya Care', an industry first product, providing preventive health care packages to consumers. With a mobile-first approach, 'Aarogya Care' integrates the various complementary components of the health ecosystem. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman & MD, Bajaj Finserv, said: "With 'Aarogya Care', Bajaj Finserv Health is integrating the fragmented healthcare delivery ecosystem".

### SHARP unveils new product

**Hyderabad:** SHARP Business Systems (India), a wholly-owned Indian subsidiary of SHARP Corporation, announced the launch of PN-CD701, a windows collaboration display, which offers best in class environment for business meetings with better space utilization and more productive collaboration with minimal setup. The device is specially designed keeping in mind the office and remote working requirements of the large corporates. The next-generation interactive display enables better space utilization and more productive collaboration in meetings, boardrooms and training rooms which would totally revolutionize the way official conferences are conducted whether working from home or office space. The display comes with certification from Microsoft and Skype for businesses.

### Dalmia-OCIL's new plant

**Hyderabad:** Dalmia-OCIL Ltd, the refractory company of the Dalmia Bharat Group, launched a new refractory line for production of Magnesia Carbon (MgO-C) bricks, widely used in the steel industry, at its plant in Rajgangpur in Odisha. The launch of the new refractory line is part of the company's strategic initiative on import substitution and aimed to support the government's call for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The new facility will have a capacity of 108,000 tonne and cater to the demand of domestic steel manufacturers.

# ‘Not forcing anyone to invest in small-caps’

## Mutual Funds are not banks, shouldn't behave like one

**New Delhi:** Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi on Tuesday said the markets regulator was not forcing anyone to invest in small-caps and investment should always be in the interest of investors amid new portfolio allocation rules for multi-cap mutual fund schemes. He further said the recent framework that directs multi-cap mutual fund schemes to invest at least 25 per cent of their corpus each in large-cap stocks, mid-caps and small-cap stocks would ensure that such schemes remain true to label.

Further, the Sebi chief made remarkable statement on mutual funds (MFs) saying that they're not banks and should not attempt to behave like one.

The remark comes against the backdrop of some mutual fund houses giving moratorium to borrowers in recent months on the lines of banks. Addressing members of industry body Amfi (Association of Mutual Funds in India) during its 25th annual general meeting, Tyagi said, "debt mutual funds must remember at all times that there is a difference between investing and lending. Mutual funds are not banks and shouldn't attempt to be-

Improper categorisation of MF schemes will only lead to confusion amongst investors apart from the possibilities of mis-selling  
**– Sebi chief *Ajay Tyagi***



have like one." Unlike banks there are neither capital adequacy requirements for mutual funds nor do they have the 'lender of last resort' comfort as banks have from RBI, the Sebi chief said. The true reflection of their portfolio in the net asset value (NAV) on daily basis is the cornerstone of transparency and investors' trust, he added. He further said there is a need to clearly strive more to make mutual funds popular beyond the top

50 cities in the country.

Earlier, there was no restriction on the investment that multi-cap schemes needed to make in large, mid and small-cap stocks and therefore majority of the multi-cap funds have run with a large-cap bias. Sebi's new portfolio allocation rule for multi-cap schemes raised concerns among the mutual fund industry and fund managers estimated that the move would result into Rs 30,000-40,000 crore moving out of

large-cap to mid-cap and small-cap companies.

"Multi-cap form should be as per their name. We are not forcing anyone to invest in these caps (small-cap, mid-cap) and investment should be in the interest of investors," Tyagi said. According to him, improper categorization of mutual fund schemes will only lead to confusion amongst investors apart from the possibilities of mis-selling. He further said scheme category and its performance vis-a-vis benchmark are major inputs based on which investors decide whether to invest in a scheme or not.

"If a scheme portfolio is not true to its label, it might be giving very different risk return exposure to the unitholders of the scheme than what they have signed up for," he added. Sebi's norms for categorization of mutual fund schemes have two objectives, the scheme portfolio should reflect the name of the scheme and the scheme performance can then be compared against an appropriate benchmark. "The funds need to keep their scheme portfolios true to their label," he added.

## IRM India, ni-msme sign MoU

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** IRM India, India Affiliate of Institute of Risk Management, UK, a leading professional body for enterprise risk management, and National Institute of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), an organization of the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to support the Indian MSME sector in strengthening its defences against threats such as the Covid-19 pandemic, through a series of policy and education initiatives.

S Glory Swarupa, Director General, ni-msme, said: "ni-msme has always been conceiving specialised need-based initiatives in tune with the changing policy and economic situation. ni-msme is not a mere world-class training institute, but a comprehensive hand-holding institution for the MSMEs and entrepreneurial youth in India and the developing world." The MSME sector is the largest job

## Pact to strengthen risk-readiness of Indian MSMEs



provider in the country, second only to agriculture, and has struggled with employment and economic losses since the lockdown began.

Discussing the agreement, Hersh Shah, CEO, India Affiliate of Institute of Risk Management, UK, said: "World Bank, World Trade Organisation and other organisations have acknowledged the grave risk that MSMEs have been confronted with globally and have high-

lighted the urgent need for sweeping reforms to help them steer safely through these difficult times. In the coming months, we aim to develop a blueprint that will help India's 6.33 crore MSMEs apply globally-recognised enterprise risk management frameworks and practices, to navigate successfully through the current crisis, as well as safeguard themselves against future uncertain events beyond just financial risks.

## Key indices spiral lower for 4th session

### IT stocks buck trend; Maruti, RIL, L&T in red

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmark indices buckled under selling pressure for the fourth session on the trot on Tuesday as wary investors took money off the table amid concerns over economic recovery and weak global cues.

A depreciating rupee and stretched valuations in frontline stocks further weighed on risk appetite, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex settled 300.06 points or 0.79 per cent down at 37,734.08. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 96.90 points or 0.86 per cent to finish at 11,153.65. Maruti was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.83 per cent, followed by L&T, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, ONGC, HDFC, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints and Kotak Bank. IT stocks led the gainers' chart, with HCL Tech, TCS and Tech Mahindra spurring up to 2.43 per cent. Other winners included Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank and UltraTech Cement. Asian markets ended in the red follow-



ing heavy selling on Wall Street overnight. European bourses stabilised after Monday's sell-off, though concerns over a second wave of Covid-19 cases remained an overhang. "Indices witnessed another day of volatility, with indices losing ground in the latter half of the trading day, as the broader markets also underperformed. Doubts about the timing of a global economic recovery emerged. This uncertainty hit the Indian markets also, which have been driven by liquidity," said Vinod Nair, Geojit Financial.

## Gold, silver tumble on weak global trend

New Delhi: Gold prices tumbled

Rs 672 to Rs 51,328 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on a weak global trend. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 52,000 per 10 gram in the previous trading session. Silver also witnessed massive selloff with prices tanking Rs 5,781 to Rs 61,606 per kilogram from Rs 67,387 per kilogram in the previous trade.

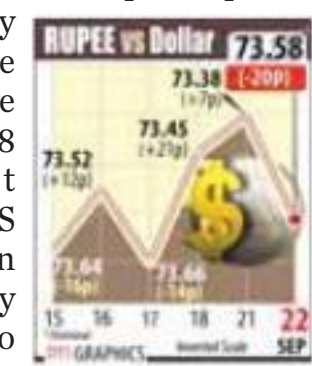
"Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi plunged Rs 672, reflecting selloff in international prices despite rupee depreciation. Gold prices extended decline with other asset classes on stronger dollar. Investors switched to dollar as safe-haven avenue on fears of second wave of virus infections in Europe and UK," said Tapan Patel, senior analyst (commodities) at HDFC Securities.



## Re drops on renewed concerns

**Mumbai:** The rupee depreciated by 20 paise to settle at 73.58 against the US dollar on Tuesday due to forex outflows and a stronger greenback in the global markets. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 73.50 and fell further to a low of 73.64 as stock markets continued to fall for the fourth straight day.

Renewed growth concerns following resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe and subsequent restrictions weighed on investor sentiment, dealers said. The rupee closed at 73.58 against the greenback, registering a fall of 20 paise over its last close of 73.38 on Monday.



## 61% employers prefer flexible work concept

**New Delhi:** India's workforce has definitely been affected due to the restrictions amid virus spread, but employers are keen to maintain flexible working arrangement even post-Covid-19. Although remote working arrangements were previously not as widely popular in India, now, 93 per cent of employers have embraced the option and 61 per cent intend to continue with them. In this context, India is ahead of Indonesia (47%), Vietnam (55%) and Greater China (47%), according to a latest report on 'Talent in Asia 2020' by RGF International Recruitment. The report is based on the comprehensive analysis of over 4,600 survey responses about hiring trends across 11 Asian countries and markets.

Sachin Kulshrestha, Managing Director, RGF Professional Recruitment India, said: "Covid-19 brought a huge disruption to the Indian workforce, but it also



While employees across India are most concerned about career opportunities, over 50% of employers continue to face skill shortage: Report

brings a great opportunity. Companies keeping pace with the fast-changing digital world have leveraged their distributed workforces to experiment with new approaches to communication and productivity. How companies pivot and manage work structure in the post-pandemic period will be instrumental in establishing a strong employer brand to remain attractive to new talent."

The aim of this research was to better understand the needs, demands and expectations of both candidates and employers in Asia. Employers in India are also

quickly adopting digital solutions to overcome telecommuting limitations, with 63 per cent doing more frequent video calls to keep staff motivated, and 48 per cent of companies choosing to accelerate online interviews. Remote working options have not seen a huge decrease in productivity, with only 14 per cent of employers reporting less than 50 per cent productivity, while 14 per cent have reported higher than usual productivity rates.

These numbers are good news for companies that plan to continue flexible work arrangements, and also for employees in India who consider flexible working hours (66%) and remote working (65%) to be the two most important factors for work-life balance. However, work-life balance comes in at fourth place as an overall motivating factor when employees are looking for a job, with opportunities for career advancement being the most cru-

cial driving factor to 50 per cent. This is a significant difference from 2019, where salary and compensation came out on top (64%). This is especially prominent amongst Gen Z and Gen Y employees, where 55% voted it the top factor, compared to their Gen X and Baby Boomer colleagues (43%).

Unsurprisingly then, the number one reason cited by Gen Z and Gen Y employees for a change of job is wanting to expand their knowledge and skills (27%), which came in second place for Gen X & Baby Boomers (24%). Of course, competitive compensation is still a large motivator for changing jobs.

In fact, 47% of employees considered it part of their top three reasons to consider a new employer - but employers should note that the average expectation of a pay rise across India has risen significantly in the last year, from 21% in 2019 to 38% in 2020.



# As claimed, KTR must show one lakh 2BHK houses: Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The Congress party which found the list of 2BHKs provided by State government as 'bogus', asked the Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao to justify the claims by showing 1 lakh houses 'on the ground', which were supposedly handed over to the city's poor population.

The Congress leaders including CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, former MPs V Hanumantha Rao and M Anjan Kumar Yadav, party Nampally in-charge Md Feroz Khan and others who toured the Nampally constituency for verifying the claims of the government on the construction of 2BHK houses for poor felt that they were not able to find the houses even with the use binoculars.

"All the claims by the government are found bogus as the facts on the ground do not match the claims. For instance, the government has claimed to have constructed 1,824 houses at a lo-

**"All the claims by the State government are found bogus as the facts on the ground do not match the claims**

**For instance, the government claimed to have constructed 1,824 houses at a location in Nampally and 226 houses at two different locations in Jubilee Hills, but there is nothing as such to ascertain these claims," says Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, CLP leader**

cation in Nampally and 226 houses at two different locations in Jubilee Hills, but there is nothing as such to ascertain these claims," said Mallu.

During their tour in Mallepally area, the leaders found that even the foundation stones laid by Ministers Talasani Srinivas Yadav, KTR and A In-

drakaran Reddy were now missing. "They had made promises to poor that the government would come up with new houses during the previous elections to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, but betrayed them," he said.

Taking a dig at KT Rama Rao, the CLP leader asked him to



## Cong to launch month-long protests against Centre's farm laws

The DCCs are asked to extend support to the other parties agitating against the 'anti-farmer laws'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The State unit of the Congress party would launch a month-long agitation from September 25 against the new anti-farmer laws of the BJP government at the Centre.

Addressing the video conference with the DCC presidents on Tuesday, TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy assured new AICC In-charge Manickam Tagore of active participation of the entire Congress cadre in the proposed agitation besides extending support to the protests being organised by the Left parties and other farmers' organisations. In his address, AICC in-charge Manickam Tagore said that the DCCs must play an important role in the agitation against the new

anti-farmer laws of the BJP government. The agitation would continue till the BJP government withdraws the controversial Bills. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was trying to hand over the entire farming sector in India to his corporate friends like Adani. Describing the DCCs as the backbone of the party, Tagore assured that all DCCs would be given due recognition and importance. He said no major decision would be taken without consulting the DCC presidents. A new system would be put in place to incorporate the views and suggestions of DCCs in the strategy. He said various parameters would be set and DCCs would be involved in the decision-making process including the selection of candidates. He asked them to keep

themselves ready for next elections in terms of infrastructure and other requirements. The AICC in-charge directed the DCC presidents to begin enrolment of voters for Graduate Constituencies of Telangana Legislative Council. He also asked them to strengthen the party's organisational network at Panchayat Raj level and finalise the names of mandal presidents at the earliest. He asked the entire Congress cadre to work as a team to achieve the goal of bringing Congress to power in 2023 Assembly elections. He reminded that Congress president Sonia Gandhi had given several sacrifices to grant statehood for Telangana. Therefore, he said it should be the duty of all Congress leaders and workers to bring the party to power in Telangana.

## Two drown in stream while fishing

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Two men drowned in the stream while fishing in outskirts of Tommidi Rekula village in Keshampet mandal, Shadnagar on Tuesday. They were identified as the residents of Mahabubnagar.

According to the locals, both Chandru (26) and Chanti (15) came to Thommidi Rekula for fishing. The stream in Thommidi Rekula is overflowing due to heavy downpour for the past few days. So people from different places are visiting that place. Their bodies were shifted to the hospital for post-mortem.

## Congress leaders visited wrong house sites: Talasani

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday said that Congress party leaders visited the house sites which are not constructed by the government under the double bedroom houses scheme.

Addressing a press conference here at Assembly media point on Tuesday, Yadav said that the government has not taken up construction of houses at Mangar Basti and Afzal Sagar where the Congress leaders led by CLP leaders Bhatti Vikramarka visited. The minister was responding to the allegations of the Congress leaders that the ministers promised to construct double bedroom houses at Afzal Sagar during December 2015 but, did not fulfil the promise and also removed the foundation stone from the site.

Yadav also said that the Congress party leaders were talking about double bedroom houses keeping in view the GHMC elections. Everyone knows what happened to Bheemrao Bada during the Congress regime, Yadav added. He said that Congress party may



**Says the government has not taken up construction of houses at Mangar Basti and Afzal Sagar where the CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka visited**

not get even candidates for the 150 divisions in GHMC. He clarified that at some places the government did not get permission because of the FTL rules at water bodies adding the Congress leaders had filed cases in Court against the construction.

The minister apologised to the families of the two persons who were killed after falling into nalas. He said that it was a mistake of the administration and added that the government would take care of the families.

## Noted nephrologist of Apollo Hospitals wins Dronacharya Award

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Senior consultant nephrologist in Apollo Hospitals Dr Soundararajan has been chosen for the prestigious Dronacharya Award. The prestigious award is given annually to eminent senior nephrologists in India who have served for decades as nephrology teachers.

Dr Soundararajan has served in medical colleges of Tamil Nadu as nephrologist for 15 years and as Professor & HoD in Ramachandra medical college for 20 years. He trained over 30 young nephrologists, 12 PhD scholars all over India.

He organised over 1200 kidney transplants including 200 disease donor transplants successfully during his term.

He was involved in the care of several political and celluloid VIPs in Tamil Nadu for their medical treatments in the past including Rajinikanth, former Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers such as Karunanidhi and Congress leader Moopanar and others.

## KCR has no moral right: Revuri

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Narsampet (Warangal Rural):** Former MLA and senior BJP leader Revuri Prakash Reddy has said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhhar Rao has no moral right to oppose the Central Government's Agriculture Bills. Leading a rally with the party cadres in the town on Tuesday he said that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation); the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services; Essential Commodities (Amendment) are aimed at strengthening the farming sector.

"The BJP promised it ahead of Lok Sabha elections, and was working towards strengthening the agriculture sector," Reddy said. He said that the new regime would open up opportunities for the farmers to double



their income. The bills give farmers the much needed freedom to sell their produce anywhere in the country, he added.

He criticised the CM for blindly opposing the farm bills. "KCR needs to understand that the bill allows farmers to culti-

vate at their will and wish," Prakash Reddy said. KCR who failed to fulfill his election promise - allocating market intervention fund - has no moral right to criticise the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Reddy said.



## Private schools correspondent association members meet Sabitha

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Private Schools Correspondents Association members met Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy in Basheerbagh on Tuesday and submitted a letter to her and requested to solve their issues regarding the schools.

They requested the minister to exempt the property tax for schools. They also said that the schools are facing huge losses due to the pandemic. Property tax, buses tax, insurances should be exempted

till the schools are reopened. Interest free loans should be granted to the budget schools and the school calendars should be released.

On the occasion, Reddy assured the association that solutions to their problems will be found and instructed the Schools Commissioner Devasena to examine the problems. Private Schools Correspondents Association President Narayana Reddy, Secretary Bharat Goud, Treasurer Mahender, Shekar Reddy and others were also present.

## Collector inspects govt development activities

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Vikarabad Collector Pausumi Basu inspected the work progress of Government Development Activities in Kodangal mandal on Tuesday.

She inspected work progress such as Rythu Vedhikas, Palle Prakruthi Vanalu and dumping yards in Ravulapally, Indanur, Appaipally, Aled, Parsapur village.

On the occasion, the collector instructed the officials to finish the construction works of Rythu Vedhikas within the stipulated time.

The roads that were damaged due to heavy downpour in Gram Panchayats should be repaired by using the GP funds.

Tandur RDO Ashok Kumar, Kodangal MRO Shiva Kumar, MPDO Sujatha, PR DE Umesh Kumar and others were also present.

## Huge fines are no deterrent as citizens continue to break traffic rules

CHAND AHMED

**Hyderabad:** The Hyderabad city police, which used to take months to solve cases, is now cracking them with ease, all thanks to the technology advancement in the last few years. However, its traffic wing is failing miserably to bring the traffic violators to book and further, these violations have been increasing with every passing day.

The factor of growing violations has given a deep jolt to the traffic department as the top brass now feels that no amount of fine can deter the violators. The fines are being levied on motorists for not wearing helmets, triple riding, driving on the wrong side, driving in no entry, stopping ahead of the stop line etc.

However, all the efforts by the department are going futile as challans are failing to deter the motorists from breaking the rules. An officer from the traffic department, on the condition of anonymity, said that the police department could only regulate the system, but not the individual. Unless a person wants to become a law-abiding citizen, nobody



► Over 11,000 challans are issued every day

► City police commissioner Anjani Kumar urges parents to monitor their children's activities

can help it, he noted. "There are lakhs of CCTV cameras installed in the city and challans are issued every day. Still motorists are flouting rules. Though we seize the vehicles for non-payment of challans, the citizens are nonchalant and continue to break the rules. For this reason, the number of seized bikes is piling up at every police station," he added.

Voicing his views on the issue, city

police commissioner Anjani Kumar noted, "Is there anything more precious than the lives of young boys. Despite issuing 11,000 electronic challans every day, one can still see many boys riding bikes without helmets or indulging in triple riding. Shouldn't parents take more responsibility?" He further urged the parents of the youngsters to make their children abide by the rules besides monitoring their activities.

## MLA distributes Kalyana Lakshmi cheques

HANS NEWS SERVICE



MLA Jaipal Yadav distributing Kalyana Lakshmi cheques at MBA Gardens

**Ranga Reddy:** Kalwakurthy MLA Jaipal Yadav distributed Kalyana Lakshmi cheques worth Rs 63.80 lakh to 55 beneficiaries at MBA gardens in Kadthal on Tuesday.

On the occasion, the MLA said that the government is providing financial assistance for marriages. It is a novel scheme for all poor people in the State through Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak scheme. The Telangana government will always strive for the development of the public and the State, he added.

Kadathal ZPTC Dhasarath Nayaki, MPP Mothyanayak, MPTCs Gopal, Uma, Srinivas Reddy, Chandramouli and other local leaders participated in the programme.

## Many RTC buses ply sans fitness certificate

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The RTA and RTC officials are colluding in the replacement of the engines of old RTC buses by ignoring the rules causing loss to the exchequer and also endangering the lives of passengers. The buses with replaced engines do not possess the mandatory fitness certificates to run on roads.

According to officials, the State government has given a special provision for the State owned Road Transport Corporation to replace the engines of the old buses. This provision is not applicable to private vehicles as these vehicles should have the same engine and chassis number until the vehicle is condemned or scrapped.

The TSRTC usually takes up replacement of engines of old buses after it travels certain kilometres. The replacement of the engines would have to be done in the supervision of the RTA officials. An official

of the Transport department said that generally the RTC buses come to the workshop for overhauling, replacement of engines after four to five years.

The RTC officials should have to visit the RTA offices twice once before replacement and for the second time after replacement of the engine. The RTA official would check the engine and issue certificates of fitness and complete the official procedures with a prescribed fee of Rs 500 per engine.

Sources said that every year about 150 RTC buses come for replacement of engines. Every month on an average 20 to 30 buses come up for replacement of engines and during the months of September to November more than 40 buses come for replacement of engines, said sources.

Presently because of the restrictions on public transport the number of buses coming for replacement has decreased but even today there are around 40 buses at

workshop at Uppal, added sources.

However, for the last couple of years the official procedures have been ignored. The buses are not certified by the RTA authorities. If the buses are not certified by the RTA officials, they will not be having mandatory fitness certificates to run on roads. In case of an accident, there would be legal cases against the buses of which the engines are replaced because the engine numbers do not match with the registration copy. The RTC officials do not come to RTA and the RTA officials do not insist because it is a government owned entity, sources said. Telangana Auto and Motor Welfare Union general secretary M Dayanand said that the RTA and RTC officials are throwing the rules to the wind and endangering the lives of people. "What will happen if a bus meets accidents and the insurance company denies claims on the grounds that the engine number does not match," asked Dayanand.



# Have learnt a lot from Virat: Devdutt Padikkal

**Dubai (IANS):** Left-handed batsman Devdutt Padikkal, who played an instrumental role in Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their opening game of this year's edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), has stated that he has learnt a lot from skipper Virat Kohli.

RCB first posted 163/5 in their allotted 20 overs and then defended the total by inflicting a monstrous batting collapse for SRH at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, bowling them out for 153 in the final over of the match. Padikkal, who was making his IPL debut, played a 42-ball 56-run knock which was studded with eight boundaries.

"I was very nervous when I got the news that I would be making my debut for RCB. I was just walking in my room the day I got the news that I will be playing against Hyderabad. When I came to bat, I got settled then, when I played my first two balls, I really felt



good," Padikkal told leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in a video posted on the official IPL website.

"For the past month we have been training here, Virat Bhaiya has talked to me and I have learnt a lot from him. Whenever I am with him, I keep asking questions from him," he added.

The 20-year-old batsman, who

shared a 90-run opening stand with Aaron Finch, further said that Australia's limited-overs skipper showed confidence on him which in turn helped him to bat freely.

"Playing today with Finch felt amazing. He understood that I was scoring quickly, so he gave me the strike and showed confidence in me."

## It was a bizzare game for us: Warner

**Dubai(IANS):** Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) captain David Warner conceded that Yuzvendra Chahal's final over of his spell proved to be turning point as his side lost their opening IPL 13 game against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB).

SRH bowlers came out with a decent bowling attack to restrict RCB on 163/5 in their allotted 20 overs and then during the course of the chase, they seemed to be in control with Jonny Bairstow (61) and Manish Pandey (34) stitching 71-run partnership after Warner's early dismissal. However, Chahal picked up the wicket of Pandey and Vi-



jay Shankar in his final over and caused a major batting collapse for SRH who eventually fell short of the target by 10 runs and were bundled out for 153 in 19.4 overs. Chahal finished with fig-

ures of 3/18 and played an instrumental role in RCB's win. "It was a bizzare game for us. We had the run chase in control and we knew that we had to go after their bowlers in the end," said Warner.



## Chahal changed the game for us: Kohli

**Dubai (Agencies):** Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper Virat Kohli lauded his teammates for keeping their composure as they defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 10 runs in their opening encounter. "Last year we were on the other side of the results. We

kept our composure tonight," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Yuzi (Chahal) came in and changing the game for us. Tonight he showed that if you have skill, you can get purchase on any wicket. He came in and bowled attacking lines," said

Kohli of Chahal. The RCB skipper further said that it was heartening to see that the team didn't let negativity slip into the bowling group, which according to him, was a "great sign".

RCB will next play Kings XI Punjab at the same venue on Thursday.

## 20 cr tuned in to watch IPL opener

**Dubai (IANS):** The opening match of the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) was watched by 20 crore people, said BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Tuesday. As per Shah, this was the highest-ever opening day viewership for any sporting league in any country as defending champions Mumbai Indians

faced Chennai Super Kings on September 19 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. MS Dhoni-led CSK defeated the four-time IPL champions by five wickets. "Opening match of #Dream11IPL sets a new record! As per BARC, an unprecedented 20 crore people tuned in to watch the match. Highest ever opening

day viewership for any sporting league in any country- no league has ever opened as big as this," said the BCCI Secretary in a tweet while tagging BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, Uday Shankar - President of The Walt Disney Company, APAC, and Chairman of Star and Disney India - and Disney+Hotstar.

## Experienced midfielders group will be key to our success: Pradhan

**Bengaluru (IANS):** Midfielder Nikki Pradhan has stated the present experienced midfielders group will hold the key for the Indian women's hockey team at the big tournaments in the upcoming years.

"We are very lucky to have so many midfielders in the Indian team, who have already played 100 matches for the national side," said Pradhan.

"Experience is a huge factor when it comes to big tournaments like the Olympics and if we play at our hundred per cent then we can win against any team. Experience teaches one to be calm and think clearly under pressure and therefore our experienced



midfielders group will be the key to our success in the upcoming years," she added.

Pradhan has been part of many memorable moments for the national side which includes the gold medal win at the

Women's Asia Cup 2017, victory at the FIH Women's Series Finals 2019 and booking a place at the Tokyo Olympics after defeating USA at the Olympic Qualifiers last year.

The 26-year-old, who became the first woman hockey player from Jharkhand to represent India in the Olympics in 2016, also spoke about her experience at the quadrennial event.

"It was fantastic to take part in the Rio Olympics. Just being around the top athletes from all over the world was something else.

The Indian women's hockey team made it to the Olympics after 36 years so it was a huge moment for us.

"However, it was

disappointing to come back without a victory. But it didn't deter us from trying harder and Hockey India has shown tremendous faith in us over all the good and bad times," she added.

She further mentioned that Hockey India through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), state governments and state units have constructed the "best pitches for practice and international matches" and instilled belief in the team that they could take on any top side in the world.

"When we have a tremendous backing of our own federation, then it inspires us to perform every time we step on the field," said the midfielder.

## Kush Maini claims 2<sup>nd</sup> win of 2020 in British F3

**Leicestershire (IANS):** Hitech GP's championship leader Kush Maini has claimed his second win of the year in the British F3 Championship in race three at the Donington Park, after coming out on top of a Lap One battle with championship rival Kaylen Frederick.

At the start, Frederick -- who was on pole -- had a good launch to lead the pack down to Redgate, holding off Maini who then got a good run on Frederick down the Craner Curves and dived up the inside of his championship rival at the Old Hairpin. Frederick refused to budge, so the pair went wheel to wheel through Starkey's Bridge and Schwartz with Maini on the outside, before making the move stick on the inside of



McLeans. That set the tone for the remainder of the race, with Maini able to pull out a steady gap while De Pauw fended off Frederick.

With all that drama going on, Maini had extended his lead to over two seconds, and he was able to pull out further over the following laps, with the margin reaching 3.2 seconds at the end of the eighth lap.

The result meant that Maini claimed his ninth podium in 14 races, including the third place on Saturday in round 13. This increases Maini's championship points to 296 with a lead of 54 points with 10 races still to go.

"I knew I had to get him (Kaylen Frederick) on the first lap because it's too hard to follow around here. I got a good start thankfully and put him under pressure into turn one, which messed up his run down to the Old Hairpin. I got a run on him, lunged him into the Old Hairpin, he kept around the outside and then wheel to wheel to McLeans. I braked really late and he had nowhere to go, so I got the move done and I'm really happy," said Maini.

## Social distancing costs German team 37-0 defeat

**Berlin (Agencies):** A lower-league amateur football team in Germany suffered a humiliating 0-37 defeat after only fielding seven players in a bid to maintain social distancing against their opponents as they feared contracting the coronavirus.

On September 13, SG Ripdorf/Molzen II faced their city rivals SV Holdstedt II in the 3. Kreisklasse, one of the lowest leagues in the German system and lost the match by a margin of 0-37, as per a report in ESPN. Holdstedt were ruthless in their approach and scored 37 goals, one nearly every two minutes.

Coming into the game, Ripdorf players had asked for a postponement when they heard the Holdstedt players had been exposed to an opponent with coronavirus



in the previous weekend's game. While the Holdstedt squad later tested negative for the virus, the Ripdorf players did not feel safe due to the 14-day infection period. Fearing infections with Covid-19, several players did not want to take to the pitch and in the end, only seven players -- the minimum number required for a football match -- appeared for Ripdorf.

"We tried to postpone the match," Ripdorf co-chair Patrick Ristow told ESPN.

"But Holdstedt wanted to play."

"When the game kicked off, one of our players passed the ball to the opponent and our team walked to the sidelines. Holdstedt scored, but the referee booked our captain for unsportsmanlike conduct," he added.

## Ibrahimovic scores twice for Milan

**Rome(IANS):** Zlatan Ibrahimovic continued to prove his value as the hitman scored twice against Bologna, helping AC Milan to a good start to the new Serie A season.

Milan coach Stefano Pioli benched new signing Sandro Tonali and selected Ibrahimovic to lead the attacking line, flanked by Ante Rebic and Samu Castillejo, with Turk Hakan Calhanoglu behind them, reports Xinhua news agency.

Ibrahimovic was close to finding the net in the 11th minute as his attempt went just inches past the far post after a meandering run in the box.

## Djokovic completes 286<sup>th</sup> week as No.1, pips Sampras

Clinches record 36<sup>th</sup> Masters title in Rome, one more than Rafael Nadal

**Rome (IANS):** Novak Djokovic, who has started his 287th week at the number one position in the ATP Rankings, has gone past Pete Sampras (286 weeks) for second place in the all-time list of most weeks at the numero uno spot.

Sampras, who was ranked number one for the first time on April 12, 1993, spent a total of 11 stints in top spot, with his longest run of 102 weeks between April 15, 1996 and March 29, 1998.

On Monday, Djokovic won the men's singles title at the Italian Open after defeating Diego Schwartzman of Argentina in straight sets. He defeated Schwartzman 7-5, 6-3 to clinch a record-breaking



36th Masters 1000 crown, one more than Rafael Nadal.

"Pete was my childhood idol growing up, so of course surpassing his record is very special to me," said Djokovic as per the ATP Tour website.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion, who began his fifth stint at the summit of men's professional tennis on February 3, 2020, is now 24 weeks away from breaking Roger Federer's record of 310 weeks at No. 1. If he continues to hold onto the top spot, he will pass the Swiss legend's record on March 8 next year.

"This is one of my two biggest professional goals," said Djokovic. "To reach the record of, (and) surpass Roger's record for longest (time at) No. 1 and win as many (Grand) Slams as possible. I have been saying that before, so I'm working towards that. I'm at a good place right now, in a good position.

www.kapilchits.com

SINCE 1981  
మీ కలలకు సాకారం

కొన్ని బంధాలు కొనసాగుతూనే ఉంటాయి...