



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



Goddess Kanaka Durga will appear in the form of Sri Saraswati Devi atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Wednesday, the fifth day of Navaratri festivities

BUSINESS P6

Centre lines up PSUs for share buyback



THE central government proposes to mobilise disinvestment resources by getting financially stronger and cash-rich central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to buy back its shares. Sources in the government said that the Disinvestment Department is finalising a list of close to 10 bluechip CPSEs including NTPC, Coal India, and NMDC that will be asked to buy-back small portions of government equity ranging between 5-10 per cent this year.

SPORTS P8

Siraj, Shardul to fight for fifth pacer's slot



HYDERABAD'S Mohammed Siraj will fight it out with Mumbai's Shardul Thakur to claim the fifth bowler's spot in the Test format for the upcoming Australia tour while Gujarat left-arm spinner Axar Patel is also likely to be in contention for a place in India's consolidated squad.



BEWARE! VIRUS STILL THERE

All must be cautious during festivities, warns PM Modi

W CHANDRAKANTH
NEW DELHI

"WE shouldn't forget that even though the lockdown is gone, the virus has not. The state that India is in right now, we should not let it go down. We must strive to improve it," said Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation here on Tuesday.

His address came amid fears of a second wave sweeping across the country even though the situation seems to be improving with the active cases coming down and the recovery rate going up. Onset of winter is not seen as a good sign in the wake of Covid-19.

India's Covid-19 tally is close to 76 lakhs but for the first time in nearly three months, the country has recorded less than 50,000 new cases in a day. The Health ministry reported 46,790 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, which takes the overall cases to 75,97,063.

The Prime Minister had earlier announced his intention to speak to the nation while inviting people to join him through his Twitter account.

It is said that the Prime Minister got disturbed with the visuals of people going about in the markets, workplaces and other areas without any precautions or following Covid-19 protocols and hence, decided to go live on the issue at this crucial juncture.

"India will soon cross the 10 crore test number, which has

If you are careless, walking out without a mask, then you are putting yourself, your family, your children, the elderly in trouble

been a major asset in our fight against the pandemic. Our doctors, nurses and health workers have all served our massive population minutely. This is not the time to be careless," he said.

"We have tackled Covid to a large extent. Our recovery rate is among the highest in the world, the fatality rate is low. Out of every million, we have around 83 deaths. This, compared to other nations, which see around 600 deaths per million, is much better. Over 90



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation, in New Delhi on Tuesday

lakh beds are available for patients. 2,000 labs are working for Covid tests," said the Prime Minister.

"To give our lives some momentum, and to keep our homes running, we are slowly venturing out again. Festivals are also upon us, but we must not forget that while the lockdown may have ended, the virus hasn't. It is still very much a threat. The state that India is in right now, we should not let it go down. We

must strive to improve it," said Modi. Modi said: "if you are careless, walking out without a mask, then you are putting yourself, your family, your children, the elderly in trouble. In Europe, America and other countries, the number of cases have seen a hike yet again after seeing a reduction. We should continue to be careful and not be callous until the vaccine of the virus is created."

Several versions of vaccines

are being worked upon in India as well. Some of them are at an advanced stage. The government is also working to prepare the nation to ensure that the vaccine reaches every India as soon as possible:

Modi continued emphasizing on the social distancing factor: "2 gaz ki doori is essential," he said, asking people to continue using sanitizers and keep washing hands till one gets the vaccine.

Trump calls Covid expert Dr Fauci a 'disaster'

WASHINGTON (IANS)

DURING a call with his re-election campaign staff, US President Donald Trump slammed Anthony Fauci, America's top infectious disease expert, and called the latter "a disaster".

According to the audio of Monday's call obtained by The Hill news website, the President even accused Fauci of providing inconsistent advice about the corona virus pandemic and claimed that if he had followed all of the top scientist's advice, the US would have "700,000 to 800,000 deaths right now".

"People are tired of hearing Fauci and all these idiots, these people, these people that have gotten it wrong. Fauci is a nice guy, he's been here for 500 years, he called every one of them wrong," he told his staffers during the call. "He's like this wonderful guy, a wonderful sage telling us how he said, do not

wear facemasks — that's a number of months ago. He said, do not close it up to China. I have a list of 15 things. And yet we keep him.



President Donald Trump waves to a cheering crowd as he arrives for a campaign rally, at Tucson in Arizona on Monday



Dr. Anthony Fauci

Every time he goes on television there's always a bomb. But there is a bigger bomb if you fire him. But Fauci is a disaster... If we listened to him, we'd have 700,000 to 800,000 deaths right now," the President added. Trump's rant came a day after Fauci said during a CBS News interview on Sunday that he was not surprised when Trump had tested positive for Covid-19 after the September 27 White House "super

spreader" ceremony for Supreme Court nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett. Following the event, the others who were infected besides the President included First Lady Melania Trump; youngest son Barron Trump; senior aides Hope Hicks and Stephen Miller; White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany; RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel; Republican Senators Mike Lee and Thom Tillis; former adviser Kellyanne Conway; and Trump campaign director Bill Stepien. During Monday's call, the President also claimed the people are tired of the pandemic, adding "just leave us alone". The Hill news website reported.

"With or without vaccines, people are tired of Covid-19." The President continued his tirade against Fauci even on Twitter, saying on Monday night that he should "make better decisions", while also mocked him for throwing "perhaps the worst first pitch in the history of Baseball".

CBI takes over TRP scam on UP gov't's request

NEW DELHI (PTI)

THE CBI has registered an FIR into alleged manipulation of Television Rating Points (TRP) on the basis of a reference from the Uttar Pradesh Police, officials said on Tuesday.

The case, which was earlier registered at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on a complaint of an advertising company promoter, was handed over to the CBI by the Uttar Pradesh Government, they said. Taking prompt action, the CBI has registered an FIR against unidentified persons, they said.

The primary allegations relate to manipulation of TRPs on a payment, they said. The CBI officials refused to give any further details. TRP or Television Rating Points of a channel or programme are used to measure popularity by advertising agencies which affect pricing. The points are calculated in India by Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) using a device installed in over 45,000 households across the country called "Bar-O-Meter".

Air quality improves marginally as wind speed picks up

It's likely to turn 'very poor' today

NEW DELHI (PTI)

POLLUTION levels dipped slightly in the national capital on Tuesday morning due to favourable wind speed, though the air quality was still in the "poor" category.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the air quality index (AQI) was likely to slip to the "very poor" category by Wednesday due to a change in the wind direction and a reduction in the wind speed. The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 227 at 9 am on Tuesday.

The 24-hour average AQI was 244 on Monday. It was 254 on Sunday and 287 on Saturday. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Calm winds and low temperatures allow the accumulation of pollutants, while high wind speed helps in their dispersion. Expect-

ing further deterioration in the air quality in the coming days, the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) on Monday asked Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015.

In separate letters, EPCA chief Bhure Lal asked the two state governments to review the preparedness for closing thermal power plants and to inform the pollution watchdog about it, as well as the steps that will be taken to ensure compliance with the necessary shutdown during the peak winter period. SAFAR said a change in surface wind direction is expected by early Wednesday which is "likely to bring calm surface wind conditions, leading to low ventilation and deterioration of AQI. Very poor AQI is predicted for Wednesday and Thursday," it said.

The stubble fire count around Haryana, Punjab,

and neighbouring regions stood at 1,090 on Monday. The share of farm fires in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at 10 per cent.

"Though transport-level wind direction is favourable, an increase in the wind speed and local surface winds led to a decrease in stubble (burning) contribution in Delhi's PM2.5," SAFAR said.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at 17 per cent on Sunday. It was 19 per cent on Saturday, 18 per cent on Friday, around one per cent on Wednesday and around three per cent on Tuesday, Monday and Sunday. On Monday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to hold monthly meetings with the CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and UP to curb air pollution, saying there is a lack of political will to address the problem of stubble burning.

Continued on Page 5

Mouthwashes, oral rinses may inactivate Covid

NEW YORK (IANS)

IN a fight against the novel coronavirus, scientists have found that certain oral antiseptics and mouthwashes may have the ability to inactivate human corona viruses.

The results, published in the Journal of Medical Virology, indicate that some of these products might be useful for reducing the amount of virus in the mouth after infection and may help to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19. "While we wait for a vaccine to be devel-

oped, methods to reduce transmission are needed. The products we tested are readily available and often already a part of people's daily routines," said study researcher Craig Meyers from the Penn State University in the US.

During the study, the research team tested several oral and nasopharyngeal rinses in a laboratory setting for their ability to inactivate human corona viruses, which are similar in structure to SARS-CoV-2. The products evaluated

include a one per cent solution of baby shampoo, peroxide sore-mouth cleansers, and mouthwashes.



The researchers found that several of the nasal and oral rinses had a strong ability to neutralize

human corona virus, which suggests that these products may have the potential to reduce the amount of virus spread by people who are Covid-19 positive. They used a test to replicate the interaction of the virus in the nasal and oral cavities with the rinses and mouthwashes. They treated solutions containing a strain of human corona virus, which served as a readily available and genetically similar alternative for SARS-CoV-2, with the baby shampoo solutions,

various peroxide antiseptic rinses and various brands of mouthwash.

They allowed the solutions to interact with the virus for 30 seconds, one minute and two minutes, before diluting the solutions to prevent further virus inactivation.

According to Meyers, the outer envelopes of the human coronavirus tested and SARS-CoV-2 are genetically similar so the research team hypothesizes that a similar amount of SARS-CoV-2 may be inactivated upon exposure to the solution.

Continued on Page 5

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



@MANJULtoons

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA
@THESHILPASHETTY

We put so many things on hold, for a later date, thinking it's beyond our capabilities right now. Why not pursue it, attempt it, try it, and see how best you can do it NOW? One can always get better through practice and dedication.

#ShilpaKaMantra #SwasthRahoMastRaho



Right way to discipline your preschoolers

To understand the child's psychology first, know that children between ages three and five should be asserting their independence and testing boundaries. While this doesn't make emotional outbursts or defiant episodes any easier to manage, remind yourself that this challenging behavior is right on track, developmentally. Here are few ways you can use to discipline your preschoolers

Ignore, ignore, ignore

From your kid's perspective, any action that gets attention be it positive or negative is worth repeating, so capitulating or scolding may result in an encore performance. Instead, pretend the bad behavior isn't bothering you. Stand next to her and wait for her to have it out, or if you're in a store, continue shopping nearby so you know your child is safe. This shows the child that you won't react to tantrums.

Don't worry about perception

While onlookers or family

members might wonder why you're not punishing your child firmly and immediately, ignoring the antics and moving on is actually the expert-approved method of managing behavior at this age. Parents worry about what other parents think when their child is acting out, but when a mom or dad ignores a freak-out, you're doing the best thing for your child at that moment.

The right way to give a time out

A 2016 study by Andrew Riley, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, reported that more than 30 percent of the parents surveyed found time outs to be mostly ineffective. Riley's team discovered that there is significant variation in how a time out is implemented, including sending your kid to his room or a designated 'naughty spot'. Time out periods should be boring, while many parents want to provide a real-time ex-

planation for the punishment, the best thing you can do is stop talking and wait to discuss the situation after the time out.

Taking away privileges

Consequences such as taking away screen time or telling your four-year-old he can't have dessert if he doesn't eat dinner will work better for older kids who can truly understand the notion of losing something they want.

Label positive behavior

Shower your kids with praise when they act appropriately, but be sure to name the good behavior specifically. If you're too general with your commendations, small children may not understand what they've done well.

Naming the praise is more likely to lead to repetition of that specific positive conduct. You might feel silly saying, "I love it when you color on the paper and not all over yourself," but it works.



Get long and strong hair

If there is one common dream that most women share, then it is having long, shiny and healthy looking hair. But we have all suffered from lacklustre, brittle, hay-like hair at some of the other points! Split ends, dryness, and frizzy hair are just some of the tell-tale signs of hair damage. Having long, healthy and luscious mane is however not such a difficult task; all you need to do is follow hair care tips and tricks that work for you. Here are a few beauty tips for hair into your lifestyle, and very soon you'd have luscious locks.

Regularly trim your hair

This is one tip your hair stylist is tired of telling you, but believe us, there is no remedy as amazing as regular hair trims. Dead, damaged and split ends are your hair's worst enemy, and the longer you keep them, the more damage they do to your hair. If you care about the health of your hair, it is imperative that you trim your hair at least every six to eight weeks. This simple exercise will ensure that you will not only grow faster but will also look a great deal healthier, shinier and smoother. This little tip also ensures that your hair will grow a lot faster.

Cold water rinse

Giving your hair a cold water rinse is a

great way to ensure healthy, lustrous hair. Rinsing your hair with cold water ensures that your cuticles that have opened up during the hair wash are closed. It is necessary to have open hair cuticles while shampooing and conditioning as you want them to thoroughly do their jobs, but once that is done, it is important to seal them shut with a cold water rinse. This ensures that your hair does not get damaged easily. It is also a great way to make sure your hair feels shiny, healthy and frizz free for a longer period of time.

Drink enough water

Water is the cheapest and the best remedy for achieving beautiful and healthy looking hair. It hydrates the body and aids in regulating the circulatory system acts as fodder to the follicles and stimulates hair growth. The lack of water levels in the hair roots and scalp makes your hair brittle and prone to damage thereby slowing down hair growth. Water makes up almost 25% of the weight of a single hair strand and having enough water is a mandate you dare not overlook, as it is the best tip for lustrous hair growth. Drinking at least 2 litres of water a day will help the strength of your hair, increasing growth.

Hot oil treatment

We put our hair through a lot, thanks to all the styling, colouring, heat, detangling and washing. This is why it is very important to restore the damage if you want healthy looking hair. It is about time to paid heed to all the advice your mom and grandma used to bombard you with about oiling your hair regularly. Hot oil massage is the easiest way to pamper your hair to a spa-like treatment at home. It helps to strengthen and prevent dry, brittle hair and also split ends. Hot oil treatments are a great way to stimulate better blood circulation to your hair, promote hair growth, reduce dandruff, frizzy hair and dry scalp.

Use a mild shampoo

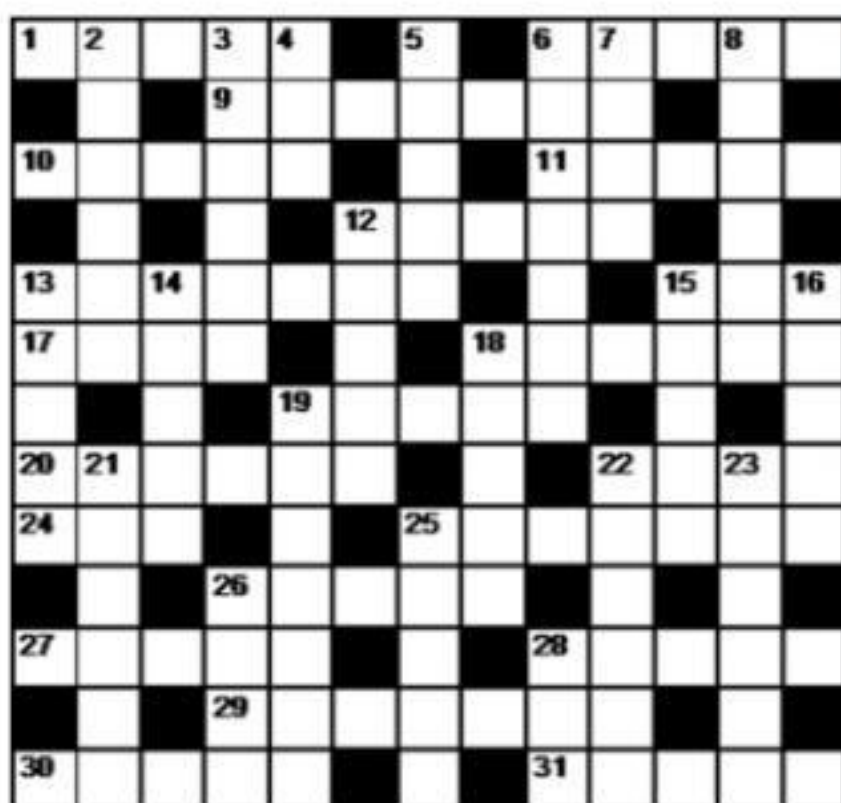
The products that you use to wash your hair also play an important role in the health and strength of your hair. It is important to pick a gentle yet clarifying shampoo. Sulphate free shampoos have a low content of chemicals and are perfectly suitable for most hair types.



FASHION KATHA



When Glasgow-based revivalist Ayush Kejriwal met the simplistic, perfectionist team behind Label Varsha, it was set to be the collaboration of an Indian fashion connoisseur's dreams. 'Daira' takes inspiration from the intricate cashmere paisley motif that originates from Kashmir. The cashmere paisley motif is paired with velvet in deeper tones of ebony black, stone gray, deep purple, and cranberry red to manifest a collection that eludes regality



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 20

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Parody (5)
- 6 Corridor into which rooms open (5)
- 9 Injures (7)
- 10 Postulate (5)
- 11 Bucks (5)
- 12 Same again (5)
- 13 Garden flower (7)
- 15 ____ chi: Chinese exercises (3)
- 17 Bustles or fuss (4)
- 18 Or on all sides (6)
- 19 Drench or marinate (5)
- 20 Fix beforehand (6)
- 22 Spanish painter (4)
- 24 Teacher's title ? (3)
- 25 Not particular (7)
- 26 Resume (5)
- 27 Fundamental (5)
- 28 Musical study piece (5)
- 29 Everlasting (7)
- 30 They're adored (5)
- 31 Famous painter - "dryer" anagram ? (5)

Down

- 2 Established as true (6)
- 3 Detestable (6)
- 4 Obese (3)
- 5 Singer Callas (5)
- 6 Speech (7)
- 7 European capital (4)
- 8 Lament (6)
- 12 Clod of turf (5)
- 13 Sense organs (5)
- 14 High spot (5)
- 15 Teacher (5)
- 16 Perfect (5)
- 18 Awry (5)
- 19 Chooses (7)
- 21 Lewd (6)
- 22 Lightly (6)
- 23 Gangster (6)
- 25 Cogs with teeth (5)
- 26 Monetary unit of Cambodia (4)
- 28 Aural appendage (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 20

NEWS ROUNDUP

Urvashi Rautela to be showstopper at Arab Fashion Week

Bollywood actress Urvashi Rautela will be showstopper for Filipino designer Furne One at the upcoming Arab Fashion Week.

"It's an honour to be the first Indian Bollywood actor to be a showstopper at Arab Fashion Week, which is one of the biggest and most prestigious fashion weeks. It is for one of the biggest designers, Furne One of AMATO Couture. The fact that he chose me is really a huge deal for me. He has worked with pop icons like Jennifer Lopez, Ariana Grande, Beyonce and Mariah Carey. He showcases me as an 'Arabic warrior princess' for his collection," said Urvashi.

The upcoming 12th edition of the Arab Fashion Week will be hosted virtually in Dubai from October 21 to 24.

"I have also shot for a short fashion film that showcases the message of equality, and tackles racism and inequality. I feel there are no boundaries and everyone is created equally," Urvashi further said.



10% hike in expenditure limits for Lok Sabha and Assembly polls

NEW DELHI (IANS)

AHEAD of the Bihar Assembly elections and bypolls in other states amid coronavirus pandemic, the poll expenditure limit of candidates in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been increased by 10 per cent.

The limit was upwardly revised by the Centre after consultations with the Election Commission of India.

The Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification on Monday night to increase the maximum expenditure from Rs 70 lakh to Rs 77

lakh by a candidate while contesting Lok Sabha elections. In smaller states, the cap has been raised from Rs 54 lakh to Rs 59 lakh.

For Assembly polls, the amount has been hiked from Rs 28 lakh to Rs 30.8 lakh. The states with Rs 20 lakh expenditure limit will effect an upward revision to Rs 22 lakh.

In Bihar, the Assembly polls will be held on October 28, November 3, and November 7. Bypolls are also scheduled for one Lok Sabha seat and 59 Assembly seats in different states. Most Assembly bypolls are slated for November 3.

In Bihar, the bypolls to Valmiki



Nagar Lok Sabha seat and three Assembly seats in Manipur are scheduled on November 7.

The notification, which amended the Conduct of Elections Rules, does not specifically men-

tion the pandemic as a reason for the revised poll expenditure limits, or whether it is limited only to polls slated amid COVID-19 pandemic.

The amended rules, the notification said, "shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official Gazette and remain in force till such date as may be notified by the central government."

The Election Commission had recommended 10 per cent hike in expenditure limits for all elections scheduled amid the pandemic.

This hike was recommended in the backdrop of curbs imposed to

limit public gatherings, which directly affect campaigning strategies deployed by different candidates who would then have to look for alternatives to election rallies. The expenditure limit varies from state to state.

Around 20 states and two Union territories of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir are in the Rs 30.8 lakh/Rs 77 lakh category, and eight states and UT of Puducherry in the Rs 22 lakh/Rs 59 lakh limit category.

The expenditure limit was earlier revised upwardly ahead of the 2014 general elections.

Hope Indian Army will release missing soldier soon: China

BEIJING (PTI)

THE Chinese military has expressed hope that its missing soldier apprehended by the Indian Army in Eastern Ladakh will be released soon.

A Chinese soldier was apprehended by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on Monday after he had "strayed" across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), an incident that comes amid a massive deployment of troops by the two militaries in the region following the border standoff since May. The Indian Army said in a statement on Monday that the soldier, a Corporal in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), has been identified as Wang Ya Long and he will be returned to the Chinese military at the Chushul-Moldo border point after completion of formalities.

"China hopes that India will hand over soon the Chinese soldier who got lost in China-India border areas on the evening of October 18 when helping local herdsmen retrieve a yak at their request," said Senior Colonel Zhang Shuili, spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the PLA said in a statement on Monday night.

The soldier may not be released for the next few days, according to another media report in India.

Amarinder moves 3 bills to counter Farm Laws

'NOT AFRAID TO RESIGN BUT WON'T LET NEW LAWS RUIN FARMERS'

CHANDIGARH

PUNJAB chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday moved a resolution in Vidhan Sabha rejecting the three new farm laws. He said that the new farm laws are against the interests of the farmers and landless workers.

The chief minister then moved three Bills — Amendment to the Farmers Produce Facilitation Act, Amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, Amendment to the Farmers Agreement and Farm Services Act — to counter Centre's farm laws.

Addressing the members of the House, Singh said agriculture is a state subject but the Centre ignored it. "I find it very strange what the government of India wants to do," he said.

Asserting that he was prepared to resign rather than bow down to "injustice", Amarinder Singh said before presenting bills in the Vidhan Sabha to negate the application of the Union Government's farm laws in the state.

Earlier on October 14, a decision to convene special session of the assembly was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by



Singh in Chandigarh. The chief minister had said that his government will fight the anti-federal and vicious farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes. The CM had said he would call a special session of the assembly to bring in necessary amendments to state laws to negate the dangerous impact of the central legislations, which are designed to ruin the farmers as well as the state's agriculture and economy.

In the assembly session on August 28, a resolution was passed

by a majority to reject three contentious farm ordinances, which later took the shape of the laws. The farmers in the state have been holding protests demanding that the three farm laws passed by Parliament recently be repealed.

They have expressed apprehension that the new laws will pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

The Centre, however, has maintained that the new laws will

raise farmers' income, free them from the clutches of middlemen and usher in new technology in farming. The three farm bills — the Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 — were passed by Parliament last month. Subsequently, President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bills.

India's daily cases dip below 50,000

NEW DELHI

THE number of new coronavirus infections reported daily in India dropped below 50,000 for the first time in nearly three months, taking the COVID-19 caseload to 75,97,063 on Tuesday, according to the Union Health Ministry. A total of 46,790 fresh infections were reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,15,197 with 587 fatalities being registered in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. The number of new fatalities reported daily across the country was recorded below the 600-mark for the second consecutive day on Monday. The total recoveries crossed 67 lakh while active COVID-19 cases remained below 8 lakh for the fourth consecutive day. The last time India had reported daily cases below the 50,000 mark was on July 28 when 47,703 new infections were reported.

There are 7,48,538 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 9.85 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. A total 67,33,328 people have recuperated from the disease so far pushing the national recovery rate to 88.63 per cent while COVID-19 fatality stands at 1.52 per cent.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, crossed 60 lakh on September 28 and crossed



the 70 lakh mark on October 11. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 9,61,16,771 samples have been tested up to October 19 with 10,32,795 samples being tested on Monday. The 579 new fatalities include 125 from Maharashtra, 64 from Karnataka, 63 from West Bengal, 56 from Chhattisgarh, 49 from Tamil Nadu, and 31 from Delhi.

A total of 1,15,197 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 42,240 from Maharashtra followed by 10,691 from Tamil Nadu, 10,542 from Karnataka, 6,685 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,453 from Andhra Pradesh, 6,119 from West Bengal, 6,040 from Delhi, 4,029 from Punjab and 3,643 from Gujarat.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

One Hathras accused found to be a minor

HATHRAS (IANS)

IN a major development, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing the Hathras case in which a Dalit girl was allegedly gang raped and later died of injuries, has found that one of the four accused, is a minor according to his school records. According to the mother of the minor accused, the CBI team had visited their residence and taken the marksheet from her. She also claimed that her son is a minor. "They also took some of my elder son's clothes along with the marksheet. He is a minor," said the

mother. The four accused in the Hathras alleged gang rape case have been lodged at the Aligarh jail. A CBI team questioned the four accused in the Hathras case for over eight hours on Monday.

The marksheet of the accused who is now found to be a minor, points towards the lapses by the Uttar Pradesh police which initially investigated the case but did not determine the age of the accused. On September 14, a 19-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly gang raped and strangled in a field in Boolgarhi. She suffered severe injuries to her spine.

Woman gang-raped in UP's Chitrakoot, 4 held

CHITRAKOOT (PTI)

FOUR people, including a woman, have been arrested on Tuesday in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 35-year-old woman, police said. Based on a complaint filed by the woman, a case was registered against two men on charges of gang-rape and three others on charges



of criminal conspiracy, the police said. According to the complaint filed on October 18, the woman was brought by the two men to the house of another accused in the Karwi police station area of Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh on September 28 and raped. Later, the two men took the woman to Prayagraj and raped her before fleeing. Karwi police station SHO Anil Pathak said four people have been arrested so far, including a woman who has been booked under criminal conspiracy charges.

Students return to class after 7 months; 39% attendance in govt schools, 11 % in private

NOIDA (PTI)

STUDENTS from Class 9 to 12 returned to classes as schools reopened in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar after a seven-month hiatus due to COVID-19 outbreak, officials said.

There are 153 schools in the district -- 53 of them government and government-aided while remaining self-financed -- that reopened in adherence to COVID-19 norms like social distancing, face covers and sanitisation of hands, District Education Officer Neeraj Kumar Pandey said.

"Government and aided schools had an average attendance of 39 per cent on the first day, while it was 11 per cent in private schools. The teachers' attendance was 100 per cent," Pandey told PTI.

"The atmosphere was positive and students looked happy," he said, adding that the low turnout, especially in private schools, was due to initial challenges of confidence building between schools and parents.

The education officer expected the attendance to go up to 70 per cent in all schools in a week's time and around 100 per cent after Dussehra holidays. "The government's decision to re-



open the schools is a courageous step. There is no alternative to classroom teachings. Online classes are fine, but not absolute substitution for schools and classes," Pandey said.

On issues faced during the first day, he said cameras installed in four or five schools were not working properly and these institutions have been asked to get the problem rectified soon.

"All schools are equipped with cameras and can be monitored real time. The same way we monitor classes during examinations. Today, we visited some schools to assess the situation and for many we reviewed the situation by real-time monitoring through cameras," he added.

Another issue, he said, was miscom-

munication between schools and students because of which all students of Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 reached their school in the morning while the instruction was to have 50 per cent students in the morning shift and the remaining in the afternoon shift.

"We wanted Classes 9 and 10 to be present in the morning and 11 and 12 in the afternoon shift. At some places, all students reached the schools in the morning. But this appears to be a miscommunication error which will be worked out over the next couple of days," Pandey said.

However, a major advantage of the low turnout was a near-ideal student-teacher ratio in classrooms, the officer said.

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Economy heading for bigger Covid-19 pain

In its latest economic outlook, the International Monetary Fund projected a bigger, wider and deeper economic contraction in India in this financial year, citing the severe impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the country.

According to the global financial body, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to de-grow by a whopping 10.3 per cent in FY21, set to end in March 2021. In its earlier edition of the World Economic Outlook (WEO) released in June this year, it pegged India's GDP contraction at 4.5 per cent. That means the IMF's latest estimate put the GDP contraction higher by 5.8 percentage points than its earlier estimate.

But the IMF is not alone in painting a grim picture about India's economy. The World Bank also made a similar projection a few days earlier, but with a lower contraction rate. It predicted that the country's GDP would shrink by 9.6 per cent in the current financial

year. While the Asian Development Bank estimated a negative growth of 9 per cent, the United Nations saw 5.9 per cent de-growth in the Indian GDP for this year.

Of course, IMF and others predicted bigger trouble for the Indian economy after the official economic data for the first quarter i.e. April-June 2020 came out. As per this, the economy shrank by a staggering 23.9 per cent in that three months during which period the country went through a stifling lockdown to contain spread of the pandemic.

If the IMF's prediction comes true, India's economy will take the biggest hit in the entire Asia. And it will take not less than three years for the economy to come back to pre-Covid levels. But the key point in the IMF projections that kicked up a debate is its forecast that due to the severe GDP contraction triggered by Covid, India's per capita income will fall below that of Bangladesh this year. The global financial body has pro-

jected that India's per capita GDP in US dollar terms in 2020 will be \$1,876.53, which will be lower than \$1,887.97 that Bangladesh is likely to achieve by the end of this year. As if that's not enough, IMF's WEO report also said that India's per capita income would rise to \$2,729 in 2025, while that of Bangladesh would increase to a higher \$2,756 by that year. India's per capita income was nearly 24 per cent more than that of Bangladesh in the past five years. Bangladesh has been doing pretty well on the economic front for the past several years. But surpassing India's per capita income will not be a small achievement for it.

However, this clearly shows the debilitating impact of the Covid pandemic on the Indian economy. Therefore, India needs to pull up its socks and initiate the right corrective measures to cushion the adverse impact of the pandemic and accelerate economic recovery. Otherwise, projections made by the IMF will come true and a lower per capita income than Bangladesh is not a good advertisement for India at a time when it is aiming at a \$5 trillion economy.

BIHAR ELECTIONS

For angry migrant workers, NREGA offers little succour

DEVPARNA ACHARYA

“Why will someone do physical labour under MGNREGA for Rs 170-200 when they can earn Rs 300-400 doing the same work for a private contractor? MGNREGA is dead,” says Jameel Akhtar, the mukhiya of the Kakila panchayat in Jagdishpur block in Bihar's Bhojpur district. He speaks to this reporter surrounded by a crowd of villagers who are mostly migrant workers, those who returned to the village after the 24 March lockdown that was imposed — with less than five hours notice — to control the spread of COVID-19.

The summer of 2020 didn't just witness a steep climb in coronavirus cases in India. Another number rose steadily - the number of households enrolled under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). From April to August, over 83 lakh new households joined the NREGA labour force by getting job cards, taking the number of families under the scheme to an all-time high of 14.36 crore.

The election-bound state of Bihar has the highest proportion of outward migration of workers in the country, and was most affected by the COVID-19 lockdown and the ensuing migrant workers' crisis. The crisis is also one of the major issues in the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections, especially for the incumbent Nitish Kumar-led JD(U)-BJP government. The Election Commission has enrolled 6.5 lakh new voters over the last six months as part of the ongoing updation of the voters' list, ahead of the Assembly polls starting 28 October. Among them are an estimated 3 lakh migrant labourers who returned home during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Until June 2020, at least 32 lakh migrant workers had returned to Bihar. Since their return, the government mapped their skills for employment. The workers have no choice but to rely on NREGA for employment in their villages, given that they have lost their jobs due to the lockdown.

People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG), an independent body working on NREGA since 2004, tracked the progress of the Act in Bihar between July and August to provide some broad statistics from the NREGA Management Information System (MIS), such as the number of households that have completed 100 days of work, the number of households nearing completion of 100 days of work, amount of funds left with states, a comparison between work demanded and employment provided for select states.

PAEG noted that while the government claims to have provided employment to 34 lakh households — which is the highest in the last three years — only 2,136 house-



holds have completed a 100 days of work so far. In comparison, 33,000 households in Madhya Pradesh and 27,000 households in Rajasthan have completed 100 days of work. Except April, the number of households which were given employment up to August 2020 was at least 1.5 times more compared to each of the previous three years, the report noted.

At least 11.01 lakh job cards were issued in Bihar since 1 April, 2020. Of the 83 lakh job cards issued across India, 14.17 per cent were issued in Bihar, the report added.

An angry, unemployed electorate

According to Jameel, the rules under NREGA are flawed and the Act benefits neither the labourer nor the employer. “Only a public representative knows how difficult it is to get people enrolled under NREGA. I became mukhiya in 2016 and I was eager to get youths in my village work under NREGA. So, I opened a small project and employed workers from the village. But the system is broken,” adds Jameel. “The payment never comes on time. Why will a worker wait for five-six months for a paltry sum of money?”

This is not an isolated situation. This reporter travelled across eight districts to assess the ground situation and found that there was a deep disconnect between the state, the district and panchayat level officials, especially when it came to implementation of welfare schemes announced for the migrant workers during the crisis.

About 115 kilometres away from Jameel's village, Lal Mahto from Kartahan Bujurg panchayat in Vaishali district of Bihar is waiting for the borders of India-Nepal to reopen. “I get 0.63 paise more in Kathmandu compared to my friends who work in India,” says Mahto, who belongs to the Extremely Backward Class (EBC) and has been unemployed since his return in March this year.

His mother, 50-year-old Krishna Devi sits near the temple shade carefully guarding the NREGA job card issued by the Bihar government in July this year. “We got a job card but never heard about any job after that,” she says flipping through the booklet which has her and her son's name.

The rest of the booklet, which is supposed to be a log of the jobs assigned and completed by the households, is empty. “We have been reduced to begging and seeking alms. Beggars have a better life. At least they don't pretend to be “workers” or “labourers”.

Vaishali is one of the 32 districts in poll-bound Bihar where Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan on 20 June 2020 to provide employment to migrant labourers. The scheme was expected to provide some relief to migrant labourers who returned to their native states after having lost work. To give an estimate of the scale of the problem, as many as 24,19,052 labourers had returned from Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and many other states after the lockdown was imposed. Ahead of an election that is expected to be fiercely contested, the majority of Bihar's villages are teeming with a young and angry populace. The crowd comprises mainly young men (between 20-35 years of age). They are jobless, frustrated and they feel that the government doesn't even notice them till the elections are upon them.

Govt promises only on paper

“They have issued job cards, but where are the jobs?” asks 25-year-old Chandan Kumar Vidyarthi, a Mahadalit, who hails from Parsauna village in Saran district.

Chandan was working in Gujarat's Anjaan when the lockdown was imposed. Part of a group of eight men, Chandan found himself jobless and penniless after the private contractor who employed them said there is no work, since a lockdown has been imposed. “We sat without work and money for three months, trying to return home. But the condition is worse here, I think. At least outside, there is a guarantee that we will get some work and earn up to Rs 400 a day. There is absolutely nothing in Bihar,” he says.

Parsauna is a Mahadalit village. Mahadalits are considered a subcategory of Dalits in Bihar and, together with the Dalits, make up about 18 per cent of the state's

population. In 2007, Nitish Kumar brought 20 most backward and deprived SC castes under one umbrella and christened the grouping as Mahadalit. He announced schemes and programmes for their economic and social upliftment. Nitish, in fact, was instrumental in Manjhi being appointed as chief minister of Bihar. “It has been five months since I returned. In these five months, we haven't received even a penny from the Bihar government. There are no jobs in Bihar. We have submitted the necessary forms to apply for a job and it has been a year. We are on the brink of starvation. We are living off borrowed money from neighbours. They are not even allowing us to return and resume work,” Chandan added.

The fact that there is a vast difference between the official version of events and the ground reality, is interesting to note. Considering that migrant workers who returned to the state by June 2020 form a considerable chunk of the voter base, one would expect the government to be in crisis management mode by now. But residents of rural Bihar feel it makes no difference to the political class if workers live or die.

Elaborating on the government's apathy toward the poorer sections of society, 35-year-old Aditya, who is a farmer, asks how Rs 200 is sufficient for any family. “First of all, since the lockdown, there is no work even under NREGA. The floods have made things worse, but the government has no sympathy for us.”

According to the farmers in Sonapur's Bakarpur village, the town mandi was shut down in April to enforce social distancing to control the spread of coronavirus. “Politicians and netas are arranging massive rallies. No one talks about social distancing then. But the strictest clampdown is on the poorest sections of society,” says Aditya.

Farmers in Sonapur unanimously and quite bluntly dubbed the current government ‘anti-poor’ and ‘anti-farmer’. “We read in papers “so many jobs created” in Bihar, where are the jobs? We need work, we don't have work. Administration defers every meeting, and asks us to come back later. We don't have a union. Our fields are ruined after the floods and MGNREGA is a dead scheme. The wages are extremely low and the payments don't even come on time. We are poor farmers and workers. We cannot wait for six months. Our families will die of hunger,” says Pankaj Singh Parmar, a small-time farmer who used to grow vegetables on his 4-acre plot of land. He has been unemployed since May, and has a family of eight to feed.

(This article was first published at <http://www.firstpost.com>. Reprinted with their permission)



J-GUN: FIRE OR MISFIRE?

DR H C UPADHYAY

The stage is perfectly set. All parameters of a fierce competition have been complied with. The shooting event has just begun. The first round has just started. Ace player, the shooter Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has effectively fired shots at a senior judge and the next probable Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, the Chief Justice of AP High Court, Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari and several other judges of AP and Telangana High Courts. The aim is not allusive; he is none other than the former Chief Minister of AP Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Obviously, the Chief Justice of India, Sharad A. Bobde and his nominee judges are the umpires in this game. The Parliament would be the appellate forum in the event an appeal is preferred by the player or his targets.

After this, people are watching with bated breath as to what would happen next. Whether the umpire would declare his judgment that the shooter has hit the bull's eye or he would declare the attempt a miss. And if the shooter has succeeded in his attempt, what would be the fate of the targets. Conversely, if he fails to hit the targets, whether he would be just asked to go home without a trophy or he would attract any punishment. Thus, several ticklish issues have been the talk of the town today.

The shooting of the complaint dated October 6 by the Chief Minister of AP to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) marks a rare happening in the free India. In the past, a very few such incidents have occurred when the two Constitutional functionaries had taken upon each other. When Morarji Desai was the Chief Minister of Bombay State, Justice M C Chagla had in one of his public speech taken pot-shots at the government and its policies. Desai, in turn had expressed displeasure at such public utterances by a Judge and advised him that he should refrain from criticizing the government.

To this, Justice Chagla had responded that he would continue to speak up against the government if it dares to interfere with the affairs of the judiciary. Another incident had taken place in the A.P. State itself. This occurred when D Sanjivayya was the Chief Minister. In those days, allegedly ‘Reddyism’ was rampant in judiciary. The Chief Minister, through his ‘Secret’ letter dated November 4, 1961 had complained to the then Home Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri against the Chief Justice of A.P. High Court P. Chandrababu Naidu through the proxy of the letter were quite suave and dignified. Earlier, Sanjivayya had also met personally the Home Minister and apprised him of the goings on in the State High Court. Following this, a senior judge of the Supreme Court, P.B. Gajendra Gadkar was deputed to the High Court for a sort of enquiry at the end of which the result was that the Chief Justice of AP and another judge were transferred to the High Courts at Madras and Gauhati in their respective positions.

But now a lot of water has flown down the Ganga. The days of political leaders like D Sanjivayya and Lal Bahadur Shastri have gone into the annals of history. Today, the complainant is a politician facing as many as 31 criminal cases with the allegations of corruption, money laundering and what not. On the other hand, if the allegations made by the Chief Minister are to be taken for their face value, the incumbent senior judge of the Supreme Court too, stands in the dock. The allegations right from undue interference in the administration of the High Court of his home state to getting largess from the state government headed by Nara Chandrababu Naidu through the proxy of his daughters are of serious nature and if proved, may cost his job. Considering the scheme of the things, as envisaged in the ‘In-House Procedure’ adopted by the Supreme Court at its Full Court meeting held on December 15, 1999 if the Chief Justice is satisfied that prima facie the allegations are of such nature that require an enquiry, the Chief Justice of India should constitute an enquiry committee consisting of a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court and a jurist to enquire into the allegations against the Supreme Court judge N.V. Ramana while in case of the High Court judges he should constitute a committee consisting of a High Court judge and two Chief Justices of other High Courts.

The said Committees after hearing the versions of the concerned judges will submit a report to the Chief Justice of India, clearly stating : i) the complaint is frivolous and baseless ; or ii) the allegations are proved to be true ; or iii) though the allegations are proved to be true, they are not of a serious nature. Depending upon the findings of the Committee, the Chief Justice of India may close the complaint, recommend the Parliament through the government to initiate the impeachment proceedings against the errant judges or ask such judges to resign. If a guilty judge remains adamant and refuses to resign, just as was the case of Justice V Ramaswamy, the Supreme Court can forward his case to the government for initiating action for his removal from the post as per Constitution of India.

While the Constitution does not use the word ‘impeachment’, it is colloquially used to refer to the proceedings under Article 124 for the removal of a Supreme Court judge and Article 218 for the removal of a High Court judge. The Constitution provides that a judge can be removed only by an order of the President, based on a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament. The procedure for removal of judges is elaborated in the Judges Enquiry Act, 1968.

However, it is a fact that since the Independence, not a single judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court has been removed through impeachment. The infamous case of justice V Ramaswamy too, had hit the hurdle as due to the Congress party abstaining from voting in the Lok Sabha, the impeachment motion could not be passed though earlier, it was adopted by the Rajya Sabha.

The complaint, therefore, is likely to hit the legal rock ultimately and the only benefit the complainant Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy could expect to reap from the complaint is that to convey to the people that all is not well with the judiciary. But such a sinister motive could hardly convince the people as the complainant himself has not come out with clean hands.

The CBI had filed in 2012 charges against Jaganmohan Reddy with the allegations, inter alia, of amassing more than Rs.1 lakh crore of wealth by misusing the office of his late father, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. Subsequently, he was arrested in May, 2012 and was granted bail only after he spent about 16 months in jail. However, the judges and the former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu too, have no reason to rejoice because the serious allegations of making huge bucks in the purchase deal of 33,000 acres of delta farm land are hanging over them like the Damocles' sword.

LETTERS

Nepal's ingratitude

I wonder how Nepal could be so ungrateful to the well-meaning actions by India, to become suddenly inimical towards its age-old friend and well-wisher India. Nothing proves this point beyond any doubt that Nepal was the first country of destination to be visited by Narendra Modi, after he assumed charge as Prime Minister of India, with enormous goodwill and ample financial and material assistance to that country. But, recent events by China on Nepal's sovereignty in the Limi region of Hamla district, to render Nepal alien to these places that China illegally occupied, by claiming these places as its own, must make Nepal realise the harm in the long term that is in store for the country for being overtly bonhomie with China.

The open border between India and Nepal has been the mainstay for innumerable Nepalese to seek jobs in India, in a variety of fields. The religious and mythological landmarks connecting the two countries are well known to the people of both countries. The Ramayana trail that originated in India has its ramifications extended to Nepal and Sri Lanka, which are popular religious tourist destinations for every Hindu in the world.

Nepal's gambit of losing a couple of areas to aggressive Chinese expansionism has further emboldened the latter to lay claim to Everest itself, which will sadly prove to be the last straw for Nepal to get reduced to the present

predicament of Tibet, in the long term. The systematic political and economic moves by China in Nepal are unmistakably in this direction so far that did not go unmissed by the political analysis in Nepal as well as India.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, one hopes will view these issues in the proper perspective, by not being carried away by petty and cunning financial sops extended by China, forgetting the fact that India and Nepal are traditionally good and friendly neighbours, and there was even a proposal during the partition and formation of Indian Republic, Nepal be made part of the Indian territory, that did not materialise.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Will Nepal be the next Tibet?

This refers to your editorial ‘Will Nepal realise what China is up to?’ (dated 20th October). Nepal's PM Oli has gone against the traditional wisdom and is paying its price. Oli in his zeal to spite India forgot that India is the country which has not encroached upon any of its neighboring countries. He should have checked out the facts of Doklam standoff, how India defended Bhutan from possible annexation of large part of it. China's aggrandisement and hegemony instincts are well known and its intentions are well manifested all across the world. China has practically engaged every neighbouring country over land disputes, be it India, Russia, Japan or Taiwan. Nepal which has redrawn map by including part of India as its own territory at behest of China little knowing that its own terri-

tory Limi may be annexed by foul weather friend China has only itself to blame. Nepal has no military might to engage India or China but playing a stupid pawn in China's hands may prove to be very costly affair to it. Oli has two options that it should play down its humiliation and like Pandit Nehru quoted the lost large land to China as ‘barren land’ and of no use to India and satisfy home audience or come back to India by first abrogating redrawn map, snapping ties with China and openly proclaim that China has cheated them. China which has locked horns with US in South China sea and Taiwan is already under pressure from Quad warning over its land grab policies, may relent. But if Oli goes on with China by ignoring Limi episode, it should better prepare for fate like Tibet.

Ashok Goswami, New York

Flying missiles from flyover

Hardly within one week, the newly inaugurated Kanakadurga flyover rang warning bells. Yesterday's damage in a police constable received minor injuries may not be a serious one but it can definitely create panic in the minds of people using the flyover. Government should immediately order a thorough examination by experienced structural engineers and assure people that it is perfect and can be used without any fear.

D V Seshasai, Narasaraopet

thehansreader@gmail.com

Be empathetic to flood-hit: CM

- Directs distribution of 25 kg rice, one kg each of cooking oil, red gram, onions and potatoes to flood-affected people
- Tells collectors to provide Rs 5 lakh ex gratia to the kin of deceased as fast as possible
- Asks Joint Collectors to submit report on crop losses by Oct 31, including the budget estimates for the agri sector
- Announces that total input subsidy of Rs 145 cr for June, July, Aug and Sept will be credited on Oct 27, including for horticulture crops

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to act on humanitarian grounds in dealing with the people affected by the floods by providing basic food supplies, financial assistance and ex gratia.

Addressing district collectors and joint collectors during the Spandana video conference here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that during these hard times, people expect the officials to be



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy interacting with District Collectors and SPs during Spandana in Tadepalli on Tuesday

more empathetic. As part of the relief measures, the officials were asked to provide 25 kg rice along with one kg each of cooking oil, red gram, onions and potatoes. Further, the Chief Minister ordered the district collectors to provide an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of deceased families at the earliest. Of the 19 deaths, 14 families were given ex gratia and he told the officials to clear the remaining.

He asked the officials to be on high alert and provide all help to people taking shelter in relief camps and give Rs 500 to each person in the relief camp while returning home. He further directed the officials to focus on restoration of power supply and repairs to damaged roads on a war footing and also stressed on providing safe drinking water and sanitation measures.

In regard to the crop damage, Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed all the joint collectors to submit the report on the enumeration of losses due to the incessant rains by October 31, including the budget estimates for the agriculture sector. He directed the officials to provide input subsidy to farmers without leaving any eligible farmer behind and a social audit has to be done in case if any farmer was left out.

The Chief Minister said that for the first time, the state government is providing input subsidy in the same season and the kharif subsidy will be given along with the second spell of YSR Rythu Bharosa. The total subsidy of Rs 145 crore for the months of June, July, August and September, including the horticulture crops, will be credited on October 27. For the

month of October, the Chief Minister asked the officials to list the beneficiaries and submit them by November 15. The beneficiaries of RoFR pattas will also be provided with the Rythu Bharosa.

In addition to the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister also reviewed the working of village secretariats and NREGA works across the state.

He stressed on creating awareness among the farmers on electricity meters for farm connections to enhance the supply of quality power.

Deputy Chief Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, ministers Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Botcha Satyanarayana, Audumlapu Suresh, Thaneti Vanita, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney and other officials were present in the videoconference.

Buggana urges Centre to expedite Bhogapuram airport

- Meets Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on the issue
- Says he discussed the operational changes required to be made with regard to Visakhapatnam airport and naval airport
- He also seeks permission from DGCA and AAI for Orvakal airport near Kurnool

AMARAVATI

FINANCE Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy has urged the Centre to expedite the construction of the Bhogapuram airport near Visakhapatnam.

He is currently on a visit to New Delhi and met Union civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri to hold discussions about the airport.

Rajendranath Reddy said he had discussed the operational changes needed with regard to the Visakhapatnam airport and the naval airport in the city.

Bhogapuram airport is planned to be single-runway airport, capable of handling the world's largest aircraft.



AP Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy meeting Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi on Tuesday

Some key facilities planned at Bhogapuram airport include aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility, research and development centre, and test laboratories.

The finance minister said that permission from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) for Orvakal airport near Kurnool were also sought.

Reddy said that Orvakal air-

port has been completed and would be inaugurated in November.

He said that the government was eyeing licence fee concessions with regard to the Orvakal airport.

Located 26 km from Kurnool, Orvakal airport aims to serve the second largest district in Andhra Pradesh. The state plans to develop Kurnool as a hub for mineral-based industries and food processing.

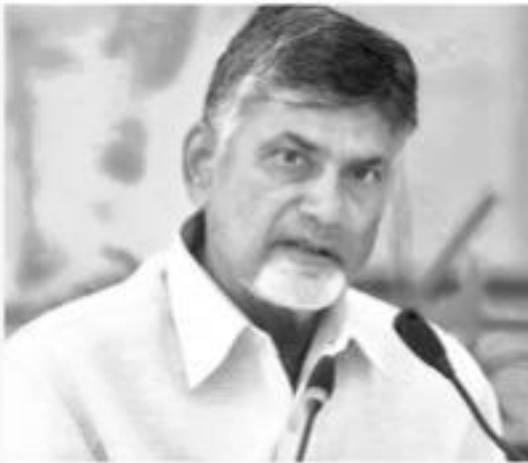
‘CM neglecting flood victims’ TDP will always be party of BCs: Yanamala

- TDP chief criticises YSRCP govt for not taking measures to help flood victims and farmers
- Says the govt is deflecting criticism by giving just Rs 500 to the affected people
- Appeals to the newly-appointed politburo members to fight for the people

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu criticised that the YSRCP government threw up its hands in helplessness when the farmers and poor families were suffering the worst in the heavy rains and floods.

Addressing party cadre in a



video conference on Tuesday, Naidu accused Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, ministers and the ruling party MLAs of turning their back on the flood victims. The Chief Minister was just making a few rounds in the name of aerial surveys but did nothing to help the needy, he added.

The TDP chief said that wherever they visit, the YSRCP ministers were being confronted by the people for their lack of support. The government was watching the situation like a helpless spectator. It was trying to deflect the criticism by providing just Rs 500

the victims, he said. He recalled how the previous TDP government responded promptly and extended all necessary help to victims during the Hudhud and Titli cyclones. The present government was setting conditions like relief would be given only if houses remain submerged for certain period. For the last one-and-a-half years, the crops were spoiled and farmers suffered losses in the floods. Artisans lost their livelihoods, he added.

Naidu called upon the newly-elected committees of the party to actively take part in the party programmes and fight for the people's problem relentlessly. There should be coordinated efforts and the new committees should stand by the YSRCP victims in their hour of troubles. The office bearers should take the new posts not as privileges but as responsibilities, he added.

He said that 60 per cent posts in the politburo were given to the weaker sections and 40 per cent posts to the BCs.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP senior leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu said the their party has once again proved to be a party of BCs who were given most positions in organisational committees.

In a statement on Tuesday, Ramakrishnudu expressed his thanks to TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu on behalf of the backward classes for making BCs the presidents of the party's both AP and Telangana units.

The opposition leader in Legislative Council said that over 40 per cent of the members in TDP politburo were backward classes leaders. Whether the TDP was in power or in opposition, it would remain and continue to be a party of BCs in accordance with the tradition.

He asserted that the BCs got into positions of power

only after the TDP became a dominant force on the AP political scene. On the other hand, the YSRCP was promoting leaders of only one caste. The governing body of TTD was filled with Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's own caste persons. Right from the chairman to the joint executive officer, all belong to his caste only, he added.

Ramakrishnudu pointed out that all the in-charges for the four regions in the state were from Chief Minister's caste. BC reservations were cut by less than half of the prevailing reservations in local body elections. Because of Jagan's betrayal, the BCs lost thousands of posts, he lamented.

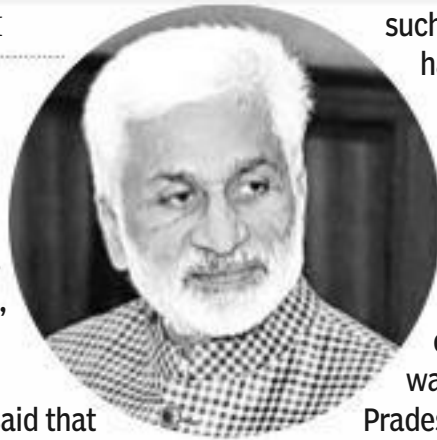
The TDP leader alleged that the YSRCP government had diverted funds of the BC corporation and added that it deprived BCs of their livelihood opportunities by cancelling Adarana scheme.

Vijayasai takes a dig at TDP supremo over making Atchannaidu as State unit chief

AMARAVATI

A day after the TDP appointed backward class leader Kinjarapu Atchannaidu as the party's state unit president, YSRCP Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy on Tuesday said that former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu should have remembered the backward classes when he was in power.

Reddy, who is also YSRCP parliamentary party leader, said: "Nobody will believe you (Naidu) when you promote backward classes' leaders after losing power," hinting that



such elevations should have been done when the TDP supremo was the Chief Minister. The YSRCP leader claimed that Naidu "did not treat properly the backward classes" when the TDP was in power in Andhra Pradesh, alleging that his critical comments against such communities were still circulating in the cyberspace.

Vijayasai Reddy said that it was the people who decided electoral defeats and victories. "After losing public trust, no institution can put you back on the pedestal of power," he remarked.

Hereditary Archakas yet to get fair deal

- Hereditary Archaka Scheme notification issued on Oct 22 last year, but priests are yet to receive the benefits
- As the GO remains on paper, many archakas are forced to retire with the minimum wage of Rs 17,625 a month, and house sites are not provided to the archakas working in 6C temples
- As endowments officials are delaying the process, archakas request Chief Minister's intervention

G SRIDHAR
TIRUPATI

THOUGH one year has passed after the government published the notification for the implementation of Hereditary Archaka Scheme (HAS), it has still remained unimplemented.

The notification was issued after a prolonged fight by the hereditary archakas to protect their interests, including ensuring the hereditary right to archakatvam (priest service), exemption from the retirement age, emoluments and other benefits but the archakas are yet to receive the fruits of the GO issued on October 22, 2019.

It was pertinent to note that the YSRCP included the demands of hereditary archakas in its election manifesto and issued the notice after several rounds of talks be-



tween the endowments officials and archaka representatives, after it came to power.

There are about one lakh hereditary archakas working in around 23,000 temples. In the state, the temples come under various categories, including 6A, 6B and 6C under endowments department.

With the government order still remaining unimplemented in the temples where HAS is applicable, many archakas were forced to retire with the minimum wage of Rs 17,625 per month fixed by the government and house sites were not provided to the archakas working in 6C temples.

The other benefits like honours, registration of nominees, etc., are also pending due to delay in implementing the HAS, even after several rounds of discussion with the representatives of hereditary archakas.

The archakas seek the intervention of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy for implementing HAS and other benefits as endowments officials were dragging their feet on the subject.

Former chief secretary I Y R Krishna Rao urged the state government to implement the HAS immediately to provide succour to thousands of poor archakas in the state.

Malayappa Swamy rides Garuda Vahahanam

- Lord Malayappa blesses the devotees on Garuda Vahanam on the 5th day
- Though the celebrations are restricted to the temple, people were seen gathering in front of the big screen to watch live procession telecast by SVBC

TIRUPATI

LORD Malayappa on his favourite Garuda vahanam blessed the devotees on the fifth day of the annual Navaratri Brahmotsavam in Tiru-

mala, on Tuesday.

Adorn with an array of rare and precious ornaments Makarakanti and the huge Lakshmi Kasulaharam Moolvarlu were brought out only on the special occasion of Garuda seva.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the annual fete was conducted in the absence of devotees within the shrine. Garuda, the celestial carrier of Lord Vishnu, occupies unique position in Vaishnavite tradition and revered as Peria Thiruvadi and witnessing Garuda seva was considered as most auspicious and a blessing.

The pilgrims who came for darshan were seen gathered in good numbers in front of the big screen put up near the temple, to witness

the live event telecasted by SVBC.

Earlier in the day, Sri Malayappa Swamy blessed devotees in bewitching Mohini alankaram on a decorated palanquin. The grand and rich decorated palanquins were paraded from Ranganayakula mandapam to Kalyana mandapam inside the temple.

Through Mohini Avatara, the Lord caution devotees not to fall prey to worldly pleasures and come out of that Maya to pursue righteous deeds.

Tirumala Priests Sri Pedda Jeevar Swamy and Sri Chinna Jeevar Swamy, TTD EO Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, additional EO AV Dharma Reddy, MP Vemireddy Prabhakara Reddy, board members and others were present.



Lord Malayappa Swamy on Garuda Vahanam on the fifth day of Navaratri Brahmotsavams, at Tirumala on Tuesday

Mouthwashes, oral rinses may inactivate Covid

Continued from P1

To measure how much virus was inactivated, the researchers placed the diluted solutions in contact with cultured human cells.

They counted how many cells remained alive after a few days of exposure to the viral solution and used that number to calculate the amount of human coronavirus that was inactivated as a result of exposure to the mouthwash or oral rinse that was tested.

The one per cent baby shampoo solution, which is often used by head and neck doctors to rinse the sinuses, inactivated greater than 99.9 per cent of human coronavirus after a two-minute contact time.

Several of the mouthwash and gargle products also were effective at inactivating the infectious virus.

Many inactivated greater than 99.9 per cent of the virus after only 30 seconds of contact time and some inactivated 99.99 per cent of the virus after 30 seconds.

The results with mouthwashes are promising and add to the findings of a study showing that certain types of oral rinses could inactivate SARS-CoV-2 in similar experimental conditions, the study noted.

Recently, a study, published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, found that Sars-Cov-2 viruses can be "inactivated" using commercially available mouthwashes.

Air quality improves marginally as wind speed picks up

Continued from P1

In a virtual press briefing, he said the affected states have been unable to find a solution to stop stubble burning and prevent air pollution. "I believe pollution due to stubble burning can be controlled in a short span of time. But a lack of political will is visible in doing that." Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the Delhi government will deploy 2,500 environment marshals across the city to generate awareness about its recently launched anti-pollution campaign, "Red Light On, Gaadi Off".

He also said a meeting of environment ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with the Centre must be held every 15 days to discuss matters pertaining to pollution and stubble burning. Such meetings will help in improving coordination between the states, he said.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Merc will produce AMG vehicles in India

Mercedes-Benz India will locally produce AMG vehicles in India. The decision to locally produce AMG in India underlines Mercedes-Benz's clear roadmap for the Indian market and our long-term commitment to our Indian customers.

— Mercedes India CEO Martin Schwenk



COVID

Profits of hospitals to fall 35-40%

Postponement of elective surgeries, revenue loss from the highly profitable medical tourism segment, and increasing safety and sanitisation costs amid Covid-19 will lead to a 35-40 per cent reduction in the operating profits of private hospitals this fiscal, domestic rating agency Crisil said on Tuesday.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.84	South	
Euro	90.81	African Rand	5.12
UAE Dirham	21.99	Hong Kong Dollar	10.9
Thai Baht	2.7	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.85	New Zealand Dollar	50.68
Australian Dollar	54.32	Saudi Riyal	21.52
Canadian Dollar	58.48	Swedish Krona	9.56
Swiss Franc	83.94	Singapore Dollar	56.8

DELHI WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

SoftTech eyes better sales

SOFTTECH Engineers Limited, which provides software solutions for online building approval, is expecting higher demand for its solutions and services as more and more States are opting for online building approval system. According to the company, States like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, UP, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have benefitted by implementing the online building plan approval system as it helped them to achieving ease of doing business (EoBD) ranking, and more States are likely to follow them in future. The company recently launched RuleBuddy PlanAssist which eliminates CAD software dependency for rule checking. Vijay Gupta, founder, and CEO, SoftTech Engineers, said, "We're constantly working to maintain our leadership position in building plan approval system in India. Also, we are looking forward to serve the private sector with our new product Rule-Buddy PlanAssist."

New device from Gionee

SMARTPHONE brand Gionee launched its new affordable device, Gionee F8 Neo. It comes with a single rear camera of 8 MP and a 5 MP front selfie shooter. Featuring Gem Edge Design with 5.45 inches LCD display and a 3000 mAh battery, it offers features such as face unlock, night mode, time lapse and others. India is home to more than 350 million feature phone users. As per a report, country's feature phone market has declined by a massive 68 per cent year-on-year during April-June 2020 period. Through this new device, Gionee is targeting those customers who are migrating from feature phone to smartphone. It held a preview sale of the device on udaan, an online platform, recently. It is planning a similar sale soon.

BGAUSS opens outlet in Hyd

ELECTRIC vehicle maker BGAUSS opened its first dealership in Hyderabad. This marks the entry of the company's electric scooters, B8 and A2 models and their five product variants into the Telangana market. The new showroom also started deliveries of BGAUSS scooters for its customers and already secured 50 pre-bookings for their scooters online, through its website. Hemant Kabra, company's Managing Director, "Our dealership is designed as a new-age interactive urban space giving customers first-hand experience of both the B8 and A2 models and their five variants. We truly believe that electric mobility will define the future of transport. The EV Industry is currently booming and we all are getting used to leading environmentally friendly lives".

Nokia unveils 2 phones

NOKIA has launched two new 4G feature phones - 215, 225. The new devices support 4G VoLTE calling, come with wireless FM radio and provide up to 24 days of standby time on a single charge. Nokia 225 4G, price at Rs 3,499, is also equipped with a camera at the back to let users capture and share their memories on the go. Nokia 215 4G price in India has been set at Rs 2,949. Sanmeet Singh, Vice President, HMD Global, which owns Nokia brand, said: "The love and trust for Nokia feature phones reigns high in India. To strengthen our commitment to India further, we are excited to bring to our consumers Nokia 215 and Nokia 225, which are an amalgamation of affordability, 4G connectivity and modern essentials".

Centre lines up PSUs for share buyback

To ask cash-rich CPSEs to buy back its shares as disinvestment has faltered

NEW DELHI

THE central government proposes to mobilise disinvestment resources by getting financially stronger and cash-rich central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to buy back its shares.

Sources in the government said that the Disinvestment Department is finalising a list of close to 10 bluechip CPSEs including NTPC, Coal India, and NMDC that will be asked to buyback small portions of government equity ranging between 5-10 per cent this year.

The buyback is being looked at aggressively to mobilise disinvestment receipts as the government's strategic sale plan has suffered this year due to disruptions created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strategic sale of oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has already been postponed four times, while privatisation scheme of Air India is still to get a good investor response.

Even the proposed share sale in certain PSUs has not taken off resulting in disinvestment proceeds reaching just over Rs 5,695.63 crore so far against a target of Rs 2.01 lakh crore. The government has divested its shares in only



Disinvestment Department finalising a list of 10 bluechip CPSEs including NTPC, Coal India, and NMDC that will be asked to buyback small portions of government equity ranging between 5-10% this year

two CPSEs - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).

According to Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) guidelines, CPSEs with a net worth of at least Rs 2,000 crore and cash balance of more than Rs 1,000 crore shall exercise the option to buy back their shares.

Under these guidelines, a whole host of companies such as Power Finance Corporation, RITES, Power Grid Corp of India, Container Corp of India Ltd, IRCON International Ltd and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd qualify. Apart from these, the bluechips NTPC, CIL, NMDC

and oil sector PSUs also qualify to go in for buyback.

Last year, Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL), MOIL and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) bought back government shares.

Typically, the government prefers buybacks because the transaction cost is low and it is not a time-consuming process compared to the alternatives. Buybacks also help improve financial parameters of PSUs, which in turn improves investors' interest enabling companies to tap the equities market for funds when needed.

LG unveils world's 1st rollable TV at ₹64 lakh

SEOUL

LG Electronics on Tuesday released the world's first rollable TV in South Korea at a jaw-dropping price of \$87,000 (about Rs 63.9 lakh) as the tech giant aims to target high-end consumers amid the pandemic.

The company said overseas launch schedules of LG Signature OLED R have not been fixed yet due to the Covid-19 situation in each country, reports Yonhap news agency.

LG said the product, which uses flexible OLED display that leverages self-lighting pixel technology, is designed to deliver a differentiated user experience to high-end consumers and strengthen its position in the premium TV market. Its name 'R' contains the meaning of 'revolutionary', 'rollable' and 'redefine the



space', according to the home appliance maker. The 65-inch TV model named RX is highlighted by its screen that rises from a box and can be rolled up inside. Depending on how much the screen has rolled up inside the base, it provides three different viewing options for users to design interior space.

While the full view option is for watching TV, the line view option exposes only a part of the screen and offers five different stylish modes: music, clock, frame, mood and ThinQ home dashboard to check conditions of other smart devices inside the house.

Apollo launches post-Covid clinics

HYDERABAD

APOLLO Hospitals Group has launched 'post-Covid recover clinics' to address the rising incidence of Covid survivors needing medical attention and care for the mid and long term persistent ill-effects of the infection post Covid recovery. Over 50 per cent of Covid survivors continue to suffer from ailments like breathlessness, chest pain and heart issues, joint pains, vision problems, and memory loss, months after contracting the novel coronavirus. The clinics will be manned by a dedicated team of specialists including neurologists and immunologists, family physician assisted by a nurse, to aid patients deal with the aftermath of Covid -19 and restore their normal health, the company said in a statement. The new clinics are being launched initially at Apollo Hospitals treating Covid in Hyderabad and other cities.

Hysea innovation summit on Nov 5

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (Hysea) on Tuesday announced that the 28th edition of its annual Hysea

summit, Hysea Innovation Summit 2020, will be held on November 5.

The event, which is expected to attract over 1,000 delegates from around the world, will take place in hybrid mode - virtual and physical. It will consist of a conference, product expo and annual industry award. The theme of this year's event is 'Surge ahead: win the new normal'. Bharani K Aroll, president, Hysea, said: "Hysea Innovation

Summit 2020 will provide exhibitors, delegates and attendees the most sought-after and unique opportunity to highlight their talent, innovations, ideate, and meet with prospective partners from across the



country". Hysea aims to foster and promote the growth of Telangana's IT industry which has been growing consistently at 15 per cent or more year on year. Hyderabad with its growing infrastructure has become one of the most attractive IT destinations in the world, he added.

Jet may fly again in six months

NEW DELHI

THE much-awaited Jet Airways' resolution is finally heading towards a success, with the resolution plan of Kalrock Capital and Murari Lal Jalan having been approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

Now, after the resolution process has been completed and the Kalrock-led consortium takes over the airline, the first task would be to retrieve its slots which were temporarily distributed among other players.

The airline is expected to fly again in around four to six months. Ashish Mohanty, President of Jet Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Welfare Association (JAMEWA) said that Jet's first flight may be in about four months after the takeover by the new owners.

Ather Energy launches buyback scheme

HYDERABAD

ELECTRIC vehicle maker Ather Energy on Tuesday rolled out an assured buyback scheme, the first of its kind in the domestic EV space, for its 450X e-scooter model, which is set to hit the road next month.

Besides, the Bengaluru-based startup, which is 34.58 per cent owned by two-wheeler market leader Hero MotoCorp, also announced cutting prices of Ather 45Plus model by Rs 9,000.

Under the assured scheme, aimed at accelerating EV adoption in the country, Ather Energy will buy back Ather 450X e-scooter at Rs 85,000, at the end of three years, Tarun Mehta, co-founder and CEO, Ather Energy, said at a virtual press conference. The company revised its subscription plans, offering more flexibility to customers, starting at Rs 125 per month. Ather Energy has built its own li-ion battery packs and an overall robust platform in the Ather 450 product line.

Covid toll: 78% MSMEs, startups cut staff

Startup, MSME ecosystem going through a torrid time due to pandemic: survey

NEW DELHI

SEVENTY-EIGHT per cent MSMEs and startups in India have reduced workforce in the last eight months since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out.

As per a survey by LocalCircles, only 22 per cent startups and MSMEs have the same or increased workforce as compared to the pre-Covid levels.

India's startups and MSMEs ecosystem went through a torrid time due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the following lockdown. With revenues and operations getting impacted for most businesses, many end up cutting costs and some even shut down temporarily or permanently. As per CMIE, 6 million Indians had already lost white collar jobs in the March-August period.

LocalCircles conducted a survey to understand the startup and MSME pulse on their workforce adjustments due to Covid. The



survey received over 7,000 responses from startups, MSMEs and entrepreneurs spread across 104 top business districts of the country.

In the survey, startups and MSMEs were asked about how have workforce adjustments taken place in their business during the Covid-19 pandemic. In response, 25 per cent said their business has shut down and all workforce has been let

Not a single business reported increase in the number of women employees during the course of the eight months of Covid-19 pandemic

— LocalCircles survey



go, while 15 per cent said their workforce has reduced by 50 per cent or more.

A 19 per cent said their workforce has reduced by 25-50%, and another 19 per cent said their workforce has reduced by up to 25 per cent. A 6 per cent said their workforce has increased and 16 per cent said they have same workforce as pre Covid-19 time.

This shows that 78 per cent

MSMEs and startups in India have reduced workforce in the last 8 months since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out and only 22 per cent startups and MSMEs have the same or increased workforce as compared to the pre-Covid levels.

The Government also took steps to help these small businesses through the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme, but its advantages per feedback from busi-

nesses in July this year has been quite limited, the survey said.

In 2017, the Indian Government passed the Maternity (Amendment) Bill that increased the right to paid maternity leave for working women from 3 months to 6 months - the third highest in the world. Although this was great news for nursing mothers, a ripple effect of this decision was noticed in many small businesses who reduced hiring of women in their organisations, purely due to financial reasons and the cost of funding maternity leave benefits. Though the Government came back and moved a proposal allowing companies to file reimbursement of 7 of the 26 weeks of maternity pay, there were few takers amongst small businesses.

Startups and MSMEs were asked about how employment of women has been in their business eight months into the Covid-19 pandemic.

TRS staring at drubbing in Dubbaka, says Uttam

Lists out the promises of ruling party that it failed to keep during campaign meetings in Dubbaka Assembly constituency



TPCC President and Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy admitting Toguta MPP (TRS) Latha Narender Reddy into the Congress in the presence of AICC Incharge of Telangana Manickam Tagore and former Deputy Chief Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha in Dubbaka on Tuesday.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Congress chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday claimed that the party was all set to win Dubbaka Assembly bypolls with a huge majority.

Addressing meetings in mandals of Thoguta, Mirdoddi and Dubbaka besides Dubbaka town,

Uttam stated that TRS would suffer a severe setback in Dubbaka bypolls as the ruling party leaders have failed in their attempts to convince the people. "People have realised that the TRS government has failed on all fronts and it never honoured the promises it made to people. The pink party leaders make huge promises and forget them once polling

is over. They did the same thing during Huzurnagar bypolls, and now trying to repeat the same in Dubbaka. This time, people won't favour TRS," he said.

Holding Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao responsible for loss of life and property in Hyderabad floods, the State Congress chief said that the CM had not visited a single affected area

to inspect the relief measures and instill confidence among flood victims. He said the CM's announcement of Rs 1 lakh each for totally collapsed houses and Rs 50,000 each for partially damaged houses was nothing but adding insult to the injury.

Lambasting the Chief Minister for supporting farm bills passed by the BJP government, Uttam asked, "When the TRS government could convene a special session of Assembly to amend the Municipal Act, why couldn't it hold a session to override the controversial laws?"

Adding that the State government did not issue any guidelines to enumerate losses so as to pay compensation to rain-affected farmers, Uttam said due to the negligence of CM that the farmers have no crop insurance this season. He expressed fear that the TRS government would take away huge lands from farmers if it wins Dubbaka bypolls.

Adding that TRS failed to roll out unemployment assistance of Rs 3,016 to jobless youth, he said, "KCR will only mend his ways if he loses polls, lest he will continue cheating people." He urged Dubbaka electorate to support Congress candidate Srinivas Reddy and put an end to TRS rule in Dubbaka.

SET FOR SALE



Huge loads of cotton being brought by farmers to Enumamula agriculture market in Warangal.

Photo: G Shyam Kumar

Donations from Tollywood pour in for Hyd flood victims

Actors from Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna to Junior NTR, Mahesh Babu, Prabhas and others announce contribution to CM Relief Fund

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



PROMINENT Tollywood actors on Tuesday came forward to extend their helping hand to the flood victims of the State capital.

They announced liberal donations to the victims. Noted actor Nandamuri Balakrishna announced a donation of Rs.1.5 crore to the flood victims. Taking inspiration from this, Megastar Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu and Prabhas announced a donation of Rs.1 crore each.

Responding on the issue, Chiranjeevi, on his official twitter handle, said that the unprecedented

rains had shaken entire Hyderabad city and added that the rains had also led to loss of several human lives.

Mahesh Babu hailed the services of the state government and its disaster response teams and said that the teams had been doing an excellent job. He said that he was donating Rs.1 crore to the Telangana CM Relief Fund. He also urged the people of the state and the country to come forward and extend help to the victims.

On the other hand, other actors like Akkineni Nagarjuna and Junior NTR also responded on the issue. They announced a donation of Rs. 50 lakh each to the CM relief fund. Director Trivikram and Harika and Hasini productions announced a donation of Rs. 20 lakh, actor Vijay Devarakonda donated Rs. 10 lakh. Telugu movie directors like Harish Shankar and Anil Ravipudi have also decided to donate Rs. 5 lakh to the flood victims.

GUIDELINES ISSUED

Govt offers aid balm for flood victims in Hyd'bad



Locality wise three-member inter-departmental team consisting of special officer, GHMC official and Revenue official/other department officials to be constituted

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE State government on Tuesday issued guidelines for distribution of compensation to rain-affected families in the city.

It may be recalled that the government had taken a decision to provide a compensation of Rs 1 lakh to the families whose houses were damaged totally and Rs 50,000 to those for partially damaged and Rs 10,000 as interim relief for loss of clothing, utensils, food items and household goods and loss or damage of articles, equipment.

As per the guidelines issued, the GHMC Commissioner would constitute locality wise three-member inter-departmental team consisting of special officer, GHMC official and Revenue official/other department officials. The enumeration for distributing such relief amount should cover all the inundated houses without any omission and all other such localities including slums and other such areas which are severely impacted by rains.

In addition to areas which were inundated,

there are localities/houses which were impacted by heavy rains and extensive damages. While enumerating, special care should be taken to ensure that individual group of houses which belong to poor in slums, areas belonging to vulnerable sections and other such deserving sections, who are severely impacted due to rains, are covered. The distribution of relief amount should be done at the doorstep of the affected families and should be done through an app, which would capture the geological coordinates, details of affected families.

The GHMC has been asked to ensure that there was no duplication in distribution and that each family gets the relief only once. The acknowledgement receipt of relief should be obtained from the concerned head of the family and should be countersigned by the three officers. In the other adjoining ULBs round GHMC, the district collector in consultation with the local municipal commissioners should constitute a three-member team in the same way as above.

Minister visits Meerpet lake

RANGA REDDY

EDUCATION Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy visited Meerpet lake on Tuesday. The Minister appealed to the public not to believe rumours spreading that the embankment of the lake had been broken. District Collector Amoi Kumar, Additional Collector Harish, Meerpet Municipal Corporation Mayor Durga Deepal Chowhan, Deputy Mayor Vikram Reddy and others were present.



HC directs TTD to maintain status quo order in Khammam

The dispute arose between three guntas where the construction of the vegetable market is on and TDD which claims the land belongs to it

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE High Court on Tuesday ordered TDD Kalyan Mandapam in Khammam to maintain status quo.

The Court gave the interim order while hearing the two pleas seeking to protect the TTD Kalyana Mandapam in Khammam town and direct the State government to take steps to protect the valuable property of TTD.

Government pleader for Revenue Department Bhaskar Reddy informed the HC bench of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy that the dispute arose between three guntas where the construction of the vegetable market is running and have filed a detailed report also. Moreover, for another plea filed by TTD seeks three weeks time to file the counter affidavit.

Counsel for TTD Rajeshwar Reddy argued that several devotees are protesting the issue in various manners, we have to protect the feelings of the devotees.

Chief Justice RS Chauhan pointed out that every devotee carries Lord Venkateshwara in his heart. Lord Venkateshwara does not require any temple. According to Vedantic philoso-



LEGAL NOTES

phy, there is no concept of a temple. Lord Indra and Lord Agni never had temples under Rigveda.

They were worshipped as its nature deity. So Lord Venkateshwara is a nature deity. God never requires any residence, CJ Chauhan opined. Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy pointed out that there is ample delay by TTD to challenge the impugned proceedings. The vegetable market has also been inaugurated. Street vendors started doing business. At this moment there cannot be any interim suspension, at the most, the Court can pass the status quo order, Justice Vijaysen added.

TTD informed the Court that the said land has been in possession of TTD for 40 years and without giving any notice to TTD the said land has been occupied by the State government, which is illegal.

Chief Justice RS Chauhan stated that it is the TTD who is maintaining silence over everything, it is only after the High Court woke you up, when it's your property you have to file a petition.

When a plea comes before us from a devotee, we ask what is the devotee doing before us, where is TTD.

The CJ bench directed the parties to maintain the status quo order.

PIL against quarry mining in Warangal village

Quarries affecting human habitation in Chintagattu village of the district

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the State government directing to explain the rationale behind their decision in issuing quarry lease permissions in Chintagattu village of Warangal district (Urban).

The Chief Justice bench hearing public interest litigation filed by U. Veeriah and J. Baswaiah from Chintagattu village, Warangal district alleged that permitting the five private companies to operate and perform mining activities in Chintagattu village, Hasnaparthy mandal, as such quarrying operations are affecting the human habitation and cattle in the area.

Counsel for the petitioners Gadi Praveen Kumar informed the Court that due to heavy quarrying operations by the five private companies (Pujitha Quarry and 4 other companies), is affecting a temple which is located amidst the 5 Acres of land, on which the quarrying operations are going on and sought a stay on the quarrying operations.

However, the standing counsel

for the Telangana Pollution Control Board filed a report on the entire issue and further informed the Court that all the five companies have obtained all requisite permissions from the statutory bodies and are performing the quarry operations and the petitioner has not sought any relief regarding the protection of the temple.

Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan observed that a temple will be adversely affected due to the quarrying operations and it has to be protected. Further, CJ Chauhan directed the State government to inform the Court as to what steps the Government has taken to protect the temple. If that be so, then the mining activities have to be controlled/supervised by the concerned authorities so that the temple does not get affected, CJ stated.

The Court issued notices to all the 5 private companies directing them to file their counter-affidavits to the contentions raised by the petitioner within four weeks.

The matter has been adjourned for four weeks.

Peddapalli MP accepts Green India Challenge

PEDDAPALLI MP Netha Venkatesh accepted Green India Challenge thrown at him by Mancherla District Collector Bharathi Holikeri and planted saplings at NTPC Stadium, Ramagundam, along with Social Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar, MLA Chander and ZP Chairperson Putta Madhu.

The MP said that Green India Challenge initiated by MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar has inspired film stars, celebrities politicians and common man to massively participate in the GIC. He requested everyone not only to plant saplings but also save them.



TEST SERIES DOWN UNDER

SIRAJ, SHARDUL TO FIGHT FOR FIFTH PACER'S SLOT

NEW DELHI (PTI)

HYDERABAD'S Mohammed Siraj will fight it out with Mumbai's Shardul Thakur to claim the fifth bowler's spot in the Test format for the upcoming Australia tour while Gujarat left-arm spinner Axar Patel is also likely to be in contention for a place in India's consolidated squad.

With the two white ball series (T20Is and ODIs) slated before the marquee four-Test rubber, the selection committee under Sunil Joshi's chairmanship is expected to pick a jumbo squad for all three formats when it meets later this week.

With two senior pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (thigh injury) and Ishant Sharma (side strain) all but ruled out, Navdeep Saini will certainly be the fourth pacer after Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav.

The fifth pacer's slot in Test matches may go to Siraj, who has done well in longer version for India A and his Ranji Trophy side.

Shardul Thakur, who can swing the new ball, will also jostle for that place. He had a nightmarish Test debut against West Indies when he suffered a muscle pull while bowling his very first over.

"Siraj has really done well for India A over the past few seasons. I think he is a better

red ball bowler and could be very handy in Australian conditions," former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad said on Tuesday.

According to Prasad, the new selection committee could look at Shivam-Mavi who he thinks has it in him to become an all-format bowler in near future.

"Mavi could be given exposure as an extra pacer at least in white ball and may be groomed later for red ball," Prasad opined.

Shardul and his CSK teammate Deepak Chahar will certainly be a part of the white ball format side where Umesh Yadav is unlikely to find a place.

As far as wicketkeepers are concerned, there will be four in the squad.

KL Rahul will be the first choice in white ball cricket with Rishabh Pant (all formats) and Sanju Samson (only T20s) also joining him.

Wriddhiman Saha, as usual, will be Pant's understudy in the Tests. Similarly, India have a chock-a-bloc opening slot with Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill available for all formats. With Rahul and Shikhar D-hawanthere for limited

overs matches, India have six players capable of facing the new ball. The middle order will largely depend on skipper Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey and Hardik Pandya (all white ball).

With Hardik not bowling, Shivam Dube could be the back-up all-rounder in white ball.

The spinners in limited overs could be Washington Sundar (only T20s), Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja.

Axar Patel's performance may not go unnoticed. He is doing well in the ongoing IPL for the Delhi Capitals. In Tests, it will be R Ashwin, Jadeja and if required Kuldeep Yadav.

Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane are Test specialists in the line-up.

As per the tentative schedule, the tour will open with limited overs matches in November while the Test series may begin from mid-December.

Likely squad (all formats): Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (VC, white ball), Ajinkya Rahane (VC, Tests),

Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, KL Rahul (wk), Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel and Mohammed Siraj.

This IPL CSK weren't there, says Dhoni after loss to RR

ABU DHABI (IANS)

CHENNAI Super Kings (CSK) captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Monday seemed resigned to his fate after a seven-wicket defeat to Rajasthan Royals (RR) that pushed his team to the brink of ouster, even as he admitted that "this season we weren't really there".

"It's not always supposed to go your way. That's why what we try is going back to the process and see if the process is wrong or maybe we weren't able to execute. Result is always a by-product of the process. What it does is it helps you think in a positive way," Dhoni said after the match.

"We play in front of millions of people so there is nothing to hide. The fact remains that if you're busy with the process then the undue pressure of results doesn't get into the dressing room. We've tried a few things. That's one thing you don't want to do; you don't want to chop and change a lot, because what happens is after

three-four-five games you're not sure of anything," he said.

Dhoni hinted that in the four matches left in the league phase, youngsters in the squad would get to play.

"You want to give guys a fair go then if they're not performing then you switch and go to someone else and give them a run. Insecurity is something you don't want to prevail in the dressing room. Fair enough, this season we weren't really there," he said.

"Also there were few chances to the youngsters. Maybe we didn't see the kind of spark that they could've given us to say 'okay, you know, push the experienced guys and make space for them'. But what this result has done is give those youngsters whatever is left in our league stages. They will get a chance and have no real pressure on them so they can go out and express themselves. And give us the option of looking at the other options in the batting line-up or where they'd like to bat."



What spark did you see in Jadhav, Chawla: Srikanth asks MSD

NEW DELHI (IANS)

FORMER Indian cricketer Kris Srikanth slammed ace skipper MS Dhoni's mantra on selection following Chennai Super Kings' seventh defeat in 10 matches in the ongoing IPL and termed the latter's selections throughout the season as "ridiculous".

"What is Dhoni's deal? He says N. Jagadeesan doesn't have spark, but does 'scooter' (Kedar) Jadhav have that spark? This is ridiculous. I will not accept this answer today. All this talk of process and Chennai's tournament itself is over," Srikanth told Star Sports Tamil.



"I will never accept what Dhoni is saying about this process," said Srikanth. "This process he keeps talking about is meaningless. You keep talking about process, process... but the process of selection itself is wrong."

Srikanth's outburst came after CSK suffered a seven-wicket loss against Rajasthan Royals on

Monday evening. After the game, Dhoni told official broadcaster Star Sports that the youngsters in the team had not showed him the kind of "spark" that would have warranted their inclusion in the side.

Jagadeesan's case was singled out as he featured in just one game in the CSK XI against RCB when he scored 33.

"Dhoni now says that since the pressure is off, he'll give the youngsters a chance. Come on yaar. I don't understand this rubbish about the process at all. What spark didn't he see in Jagadeesan? What spark did he see in Jadhav and Piyush Chawla?,"

Auckland fast bowler Lister becomes 1st corona substitute

Auckland (IANS): Auckland seamer Ben Lister has become the first Covid-19 replacement to be used in cricket. He was called in as replacement for batsman Mark Chapman before the start of the Plunket Shield match against Otago.

Chapman reported feeling ill on Monday and underwent a Covid-19 test with Lister being designated his replacement until the result is known.

"Ben Lister starts as Covid-19 replacement with Mark Chapman awaiting test results after feeling ill yesterday," Auckland Cricket wrote on their Twitter handle.

The match commenced a day later as compared to the other Plunket Shield games going on, and as a result, Chapman's replacement could be announced before the toss. The 24-year-old took one wicket in the first innings as Otago were bowled out for just 186.

"I wasn't aware until I got here this morning that Mark Chapman had been feeling ill and had to get a Covid test. But from my perspective, it's great that he's not penalised for doing the right thing in what is obviously different times we face in the world," ESPNcricinfo quoted New Zealand coach Gary Stead, who was watching the match at Eden Park's outer oval, as saying.

"Just shows that we and cricket aren't immune to that either, so following the right protocols is definitely the right thing to do," he added.

The International Cricket Council, in July, had decided to allow Covid-19 substitutes for Tests amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic which has so far claimed more than 10 lakh lives across the world. Since then, the guidelines have been adopted in domestic cricket as well.



Judo is a priority sport, will enhance capacity: Rijiju

NEW DELHI (IANS)

INDIAN Judo team will be participating in the Budapest Grand Slam -- which contributes to the Olympic qualification -- between October 23 and October 25. This will be the first tournament that the Indian judokas will be playing since the nationwide lockdown was imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ahead of the departure for Hungary, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday met the contingent which comprises five judokas -- Tulika Mann, Avtar Singh, Vijay Yadav, Jasleen Singh Saini and Sushila Devi -- and coach Jiwan Sharma.

The Sports Minister wished the contingent luck for the tournament and said preparations are in place to ensure that a strong talent pool emerges for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics.

"The team is leaving for Hun-

gary today and I am hopeful that some of the athletes will qualify. Judo is a priority sport for us and we will enhance capacity both in terms of training facilities and coaches," said Rijiju.

"The idea is to extend full support to the elite athletes while building up a talent pool of young athletes who can compete in the Olympics of 2024 and 2028. We will discuss a more exhaustive roadmap with the federation and plan ahead," he added. Jasleen, world number 56 and a good prospect to qualify for next year's Olympics, said, "This will be the first tournament we will be played after the Covid-19 lockdown."

Around 645 competitors from around 81 countries will be participating in this tournament and the contingent is enthusiastic to be back in action in competitive sport after such a long break.

'Replacing Karthik with Morgan as KKR captain not a right move'

NEW DELHI (IANS)

FORMER Indian pacer Ajit-Agarkar feels replacing Dinesh Karthik with Eoin Morgan as captain of Kolkata Knight Riders was a very strange and wrong move.

Ahead of their match against Mumbai Indians on October 16 in the ongoing IPL, Karthik stepped down as KKR skipper and handed over the reigns to World Cup-winning England captain Morgan. Karthik had taken the decision with a "view to focus on his batting and contributing more to the team's cause".

"I don't think replacing Dinesh Karthik after seven games when you're sitting fourth in the table is the right move in my opinion. It does add to the disruption of the team and you could see the way they performed against Mumbai Indians, even though it was a tough game," said Agarkar while speaking on Star Sports' show 'Fanweek'.

KKR lost the match against the defending champions as the Rohit Sharma-led side rode on an unbeaten 78 from Quinton de Kock to chase down 149 with eight wickets in hand.

"I don't think it was a right



move. You make plans with a certain captain through the course of the year and in spite of sitting fourth on the table, it was a very strange move for me," Agarkar added.

However, KKR came back with an improved performance in their next match against Sun Risers Hyderabad, winning the nail-biting encounter in the Super Over last Sunday.

TODAY'S MATCH

Kolkata Knight Riders vs
Royal Challengers
Bangalore at 7.30pm

Premier League: 8 +ive Covid cases in latest round of testing

LONDON (IANS)

THE Premier League has informed that eight people had returned positive results in its latest round of coronavirus tests conducted on players and staff last week. In a statement, the league on Monday said that the individuals who had tested positive for Covid-19 would now self-isolate for 10 days. "The Premier League can today confirm that between Monday 12 October and Sunday 18 October, 1,575 players and club staff were tested for Covid-19. Of these, there were eight new positive tests," the statement read. So far, 42 people have tested positive for Covid-19 in seven rounds of testing beginning August 31.

Aleem Dar among match officials for Pak-Zim series

LAHORE (IANS)

ALEEM Dar has been assigned on-field duties in five of the six upcoming white-ball matches between Pakistan and Zimbabwe, which will be played from October 30 to November 10. The three 50-over World Cup Super League matches will be played in Rawalpindi, while Lahore will host the three 20-over fixtures. Aleem will stand in all the three ODIs as well as the first and third T20I, while he will be the third umpire for the second T20I, stated the Pakistan Cricket Board in a media release. The ICC has appointed Javed Malik, member of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees, as match referee for the series. As per the ICC's interim playing regulations, Aleem and Javed will be the ICC-appointed match officials. The PCB has appointed umpires Ahsan Raza, Asif Yaqoob, Rashid Riaz and Shozab Raza for the series. When Ahsan Raza will walk out to officiate the second T20I, he will become the first umpire to complete a half-century of T20Is. Aleem is second on the list with 46 matches, while Shozab Raza shares fourth spot with South Africa's Shaun George with 36 matches.



MLB World Series to be aired on Star Sports across India

NEW DELHI (IANS)

MAJOR League Baseball (MLB) and Star Sports on Tuesday announced a new multi-year broadcast agreement to air the games of 2020 and 2021 World Series live across India. In addition to now holding the exclusive pay TV rights to the Fall Classic, Star Sports will also broadcast new baseball content created specifically for Indian audiences on a weekly basis. The broadcast agreement includes rights to regular season games in 2021.

With this agreement, the 2020 World Series will be broadcast worldwide across 220 countries and territories, by 75 media partners in 15 languages. The three shows scheduled to run on Star during the 2021 season are MLB Weekly, MLB Extra and MLB's Best. "We are excited to have baseball in our bouquet of international sports."

Sindhu rubbishes reports of rift with family, coach Gopichand

New Delhi (IANS): Reigning world champion PV Sindhu on Tuesday insisted that there is no rift within her family, adding that she has travelled to London to work on her "nutrition and recovery needs". In a social media post, the 25-year-old also said she has no problem with national coach Pullela Gopichand or the facilities available at his academy in Hyderabad where the national camp is currently underway.

"I came to London a few days back to work on my nutrition and recovery needs with GSSI. In fact I have come here with the consent of my parents and absolutely they were not family rifts in this regard (sic)," said Sindhu in the statement which she released on her social media handles. "Why will I have problems/issues with my parents who have sacrificed their lives for my sake? Mine is a very close knitted family and they will always support me. I am in touch with my family members every day. Also I do not have any issues with my coach Mr Gopichand or the training facilities at the academy," she added.

Her statement comes after media reports suggested that she had travelled to England amid tensions in her family. The Olympic silver medallist further threatened legal proceedings against those "spreading false news".

Earlier, Sindhu had posted an image with Rebecca Randell of the Gatorade Sports Science Institute. "Happy to be in England and working with GSSI over the next few weeks on my nutrition and recovery with Rebecca Randell. Three months to Asia tour and this is best chance to work on things and improve!" she had said in her caption.