



THE HANS INDIA

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

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

Forecast: Morning clouds. Temp: Max,35°C. Min,26°C. Humidity: 53% Sunrise: 06:08 Sunset: 06:21

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



After a long wait, Indian Premier League (IPL) is all set to begin in United Arab Emirates (UAE) from Saturday and fans can't keep calm. Even though the event is being hosted outside the country, it has not dampened the excitement and talk around the big cricket tournament with fans happy to watch from their homes amid the global pandemic. Chennai Super Kings take on Mumbai Indians in the delayed tournament opener on Saturday.

PM DEFENDS FARM BILLS

Modi says critics misleading farmers

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took on critics of his government's farm liberalisation plan, a day after the Lower House passed two of the three farm Bills, accusing detractors of spreading 'misinformation and lies', while reassuring farmers that the reforms were in their best interests. PM's comments, made in an address dedicating a railway bridge in Bihar and also on the microblogging site Twitter, came after the Lok Sabha passed the Farmers'



Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protec-

tion) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 by a majority voice vote. The Lok Sabha had passed a

third legislation, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, on Tuesday. The Congress and a clutch of smaller parties have opposed the reforms. A key Opposition to the Bills came from the ruling BJP ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, whose minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Union Cabinet after her party opposed the Bills, exposing a crucial rift between the two parties over efforts to unshackle the farm sector.

Continued on Page 5

CONG MULLS NATIONWIDE AGITATION

New Delhi: The Congress has decided to launch a nationwide agitation against Centre's agriculture-related Bills. There is speculation that the party is in talks with other Opposition parties to stage a joint agitation on both physical and virtual grounds.

WINDOWS

Three vaccine candidates in advanced trials

New Delhi: Three of the nearly 30 coronavirus vaccine candidates in the country are in advanced stages of clinical trials, while four are in pre-clinical development stage, Science and Technology Ministry Harsh Vardhan said on Friday. A high-level expert group is looking into matters related to vaccine distribution and immunisation, he said. "Nationally, nearly 30 vaccine candidates are under development, by both industry and academia. These vaccines are in different stages of pre-clinical and clinical development of which three candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and four are in advanced pre-clinical development stage," Vardhan said in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Indian, Chinese troops in rifle range

New Delhi: Despite the Indian and Chinese foreign ministers agreeing to reduce tensions along the disputed border, both the countries troops are in rifle range at four locations at Pangong Lake in Eastern Ladakh, a senior official in the security establishment said. Worryingly, the eyeball-to-eyeball deployment, at least in one place, is at a place where troops had disengaged previously after military-level talks. And the fresh eyeball-to-eyeball deployment comes at a time when China is yet to indicate the date for the next senior military-level talks.



Delhi shuts schools till Oct 5

To continue online classes during the period

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: In view of rising coronavirus infections in the capital city, the Delhi government on Friday issued an order keeping all schools closed for students till October 5. Earlier this month, the government ordered closure of all schools till September 30.

In an official note, the Directorate of Education has declared that online classes will continue but teachers or staff can be called to school to continue teaching or learning activities and online classes.

Delhi has 2,34,701 confirmed coronavirus cases and 4,887 deaths. A spurt in virus cases has raised concerns about a "second wave" of Covid-19 infections weeks after Delhi managed to bring down the rate. The Delhi government also urged



In order to further strengthen and expand the teaching-learning activities for classes 9 to 12, online classes are being decentralized for these classes of all the government and government-aided schools

state-run schools to take over online classes, which are currently being conducted by the Directorate of Education.

"In order to further strengthen and expand the teaching-learning activities for classes 9 to 12, online classes are being decentral-

ized for these classes of all the government and government-aided schools," the note said.

Schools and colleges across the country have been closed since March 16, when the government announced a nationwide classroom shutdown as part of its

measures to fight the coronavirus. According to the Central government guidelines, students from ninth grade to 12th in schools located outside the containment zones can be allowed to go to school from September 21 to seek guidance from their teachers. Students will be able to come to the school to seek guidance from teachers only after obtaining written permission from their parents.

During this period, schools will have to follow corona infection prevention guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. Many states have decided not to open schools in view of the increasing cases of corona, while some states have allowed to open schools for classes from 9th to 12th keeping in mind the loss of studies and the board examinations.

Parliament passes Bill to cut MPs' salaries

New Delhi: Parliament on Friday passed a Bill to reduce for one year the salaries of MPs by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of Covid-19 pandemic". The Rajya Sabha passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020. It had got the approval of Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The Bill was introduced in the upper house by Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Thursday. The Upper House also passed the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which proposes to reduce the salaries and allowances of ministers by 30 per cent for a year, to meet the exigencies arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy moved the Bill. Both the Bills were taken up simultaneously and passed.

FDI norms in defence eased to enhance self-reliance: Piyush

New Delhi: The government's decision to ease FDI norms in the defence sector will push self-reliance in production and keep national interests and security paramount, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. He said foreign investments in the defence sector would be subject to scrutiny on grounds of national security.

The Union government has permitted 74 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under automatic route in the sector with

certain conditions.

"Now, FDI is allowed up to 74 per cent through automatic route and beyond 74 per cent to be permitted through government (approval) route. This will enhance ease of doing business and contribute to growth of investment, income and employment. In line with our collective vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, amendments will enhance self-reliance in defence production, while keeping national interests and security paramount," he said in a tweet.

Continued on Page 5

FIREWORKS AT RIVER MEET

TS opposes Centre's move to link Godavari & Cauvery

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The meeting on linking of Godavari- Cauvery was held on a stormy note on Friday. The Telangana Government strongly opposed the proposal floated by the Union government and demanded the Centre to address the water disputes which had arisen after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh on a priority basis. Official sources said that Telangana Engineer- In- Chief Muralidhar Rao and another senior Irrigation official Nagendar Rao presented the state government's stand on the Centre's proposal to link the two southern rivers. Continued on Page 5

Google pulls Paytm app from Play Store

New Delhi: Payment app Paytm has mysteriously disappeared from Google Play Store. The app, owned by One97 Communications Ltd, is not visible on being searched on Google Play Store whereas all the other apps including Paytm For Business, Paytm Money, Paytm Mall, and others owned by the company are still available on Play Store. However, Paytm is available for download on the Apple App Store. Cont'd on P5



CENTRE DECLARES TELANGANA FLUORIDE-FREE

Mission Bhagiratha made it possible, says KTR

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Before the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, fluoride menace was one among the big issues and used to be part of political agenda of every political party particularly before the elections but never did any party succeed in resolving the issue. Now, thanks to the efforts of the TRS government, Telangana has become fluoride-free state, Minister for MAUD K T Rama Rao said. According to the minister, this became a reality due to Mission Bhagiratha launched to the supply potable drinking water to every household by the State Government.

Continued on Page 5

'COVID-POSITIVE' PASSENGERS ON FLIGHT

Dubai suspends AI Express flights till Oct 2

New Delhi: The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority has suspended Air India Express flights till October 2 for bringing passengers with Covid-positive certificates twice during the last couple of weeks, senior government officials said on Friday.

As per the UAE government rules, each passenger travelling from India need to bring an original Covid-negative certificate from the RT-PCR test done 96 hours prior to the journey. "A passenger, who had a Covid-positive certificate



dated September 2, travelled on Air India Express Jaipur-Dubai flight on September 4. A similar incident had happened with a passenger on one of the airline's other Dubai

flights previously," said one of the officials.

Therefore, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) has suspended Air India Express flights from September 18 to Oc-

tober 2, the officials stated. Both the incidents of passengers flying with Covid-positive certificates to Dubai from India on Air India Express flights happened during the last couple of weeks, the officials noted.

In a statement later during the day, Air India Express confirmed it had received a "notice of suspension" from the DCAA on September 17 to suspend its Dubai flights from September 18 to October 2.

Continued on Page 5

"A premium Co-Living Space"

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

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

SAFE

Earn extra sft*

AFFORDABLE

9% to 11% Returns

NO MAINTENANCE

Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**DIA MIRZA
@DEESPEAK**

Even in the midst of #COVID-19 we can build a better world. Can't wait to watch #NationsUnited on 19th September. This will be a hugely important film to watch this year. Don't miss out! Live on @UN @TheGlobalGoals #GlobalGoals



PLUS SIZE FASHION STILL A STRUGGLE



TEJAL SINHA

Beepsa Biswas, a fashion blogger and photographer based in Kolkata through one of her blogs in collaboration with Lastinch in 2017 on 'plus size v/s maternity wear' explained the differences between what you mean by plus size, why maternity sizes is not a plus size clothing and how for buying a plus size dress most of the time one has to go to the Maternity

wear section. Beepsa started writing blogs in 2016 and posted them on her website 'beepsabiswas.com'.

She shares, "I have been doing blogging for the past 6 years now. My first inspiration that happened to me was when I started searching for clothes, lingerie online. It was not always available in my size. And while I was doing it, I came across a few women who inspired me."

With more plus size fashion

Plus size clothing is different from that of maternity wear. However, with very few choices one has to go to the maternity wear section with no guarantee of your preferred clothing type

promotions, they would promote a certain kind of body which is plus sized but also very well shaped.

Sharing about the same, Beepsa says, "I don't feel that there is much talk or promotion about plus sized fashion. The way it could have been promoted we have not reached that level of promotion. There are plus sized magazines that photoshop and put out models whose skin looks great. The fact that we need right now are to see more posts on body activism for all kinds of sizes. Not every model or influencer should have the same size. Having said that plus sized should not only be one kind of size. Even top designer brands don't make enough clothing options plus size."

Online shopping for plus size

Online Shopping especially in India can be a really frustrating job because plus size brands in India don't make clothes for all kinds of tastes and styles. There is a very certain kind of cloth that they make.

She says, "There isn't a lot of variation in the clothes which is something that I'm still looking for in brands and sad to say that it's still missing. While shopping online, we barely get our size for the clothes we like."

Sustainable fashion

"My grand mom is way more sustainable than I am. The more sustainable clothing that we can use, the better it is. I think sustainable fashion could be helpful in the plus size industry the same as it would be helpful in any other industry. Now even if I can afford clothes unlike when I started blogging, I don't buy them and want to focus more on clothes that I would want to wear in the long run. I guess the tide changes and the times change and your beliefs and ideas also change with time," she adds.

Ignore the negativity

If it is someone near to you like a family member or a friend, probably you could explain to them the fact that this is your body. Most people feel that anybody who is plus size is unhappy.

"You cannot stop bullies. Till date, I have people coming to me and saying that you should consider losing weight and they have no idea about what I'm doing to keep my body healthy. The best way to deal with it is to ignore people who say this and go on with your life. Be happy and confident in your own skin and take pride in your own body so that is the way to go forward with it," ends Beepsa.

Style tips every girl should know

Know your body type

Knowing your body type is the basic thing to know about yourself. Everything works around this, so this is one of the biggest fashion tips or advice that anyone can give you.

Wear the right bra

Wearing the right intimates is essential for both health and fashion. You need to know your size and when to wear what; basically, you need to know it all.

Invest in good lingerie

Sometimes it is nice to indulge and treat yourself to good lingerie.

Own classics – Trench, leather, denim jackets

Classics like these are timeless, and every girl needs them in her closet. They come in handy all through the year in one way or another.

Scarves – Come a long way in all seasons

Woolen, silk, satin, linen, blanket, etc. – you need it all. Some work wonders in winters, while some are for summer and the others are perfect for fall fashion.

Denim – Find your fit and save it for life

High-rise, low-rise, boot cut, boyfriend, baggy, etc. Knowing what suits your body type and size is life-saving. These are everyday essentials, and you can't go wrong with them.

Understand the colour wheel

It might seem a little unnecessary, but you will be more than glad you looked this up because it's a game changer and gives you a new perspective when matching up colours. Remember, there cannot be more than three colors in your outfit at one time.

Wash your clothes the right way

Don't mix whites with colors; don't put your bras in the washer; wash delicates in the low heat setting; sweaters need a different detergent – pay attention.

When in doubt, layer

Layer your outfit to camouflage any unflattering flab, add definition to amp up your look.



You know how sometimes you just know things, but don't realise that you do until someone mentions it out loud. How we miss tiny details and how other people have a different perspective to offer! Like they say, the devil is in the details. If you were wishing that it'd be nice to have a list that states it all out for you, we've got you covered. So, today, let's take a look at 50 Fashion Tips that will come in handy for every girl – whether you are a college chica or a lady boss. Ready? Let's do this



Thicker ponytail for thin hair

If your hair lacks natural volume, getting a thicker ponytail might seem out of reach. But a regular old ponytail is guaranteed to fall flat. Don't let fine, thin hair stop you from learning how to rock a classic updo.

From styling tips to hair care basics, here are three ways to get a thicker ponytail. Now you can feel cool and confident:

Double ponytail

If you're looking for volume and lift, the double ponytail is where it's at. Not only does

this make you look like your hair has grown inches overnight, it also adds crazy volume and thickness to even the finest hair. By pulling back your hair not once but twice, you'll create a gorgeous, thick mane in the classic silhouette.

Big tease

If you have a big night out on the town, you may want to opt for this tame version of an '80s hair tease. A lot of times women put their hair in a ponytail and then they tease only the ponytail. You want the volume all throughout.

You want your hair to look thick and rich from root to tip. The trick is to tease all of the hair before you tie it back with an elastic. Be sure you have the right tools when you tease, or backcomb, your hair. Use a bristle brush designed for the job and tease one section of your hair at a time. But if you overdo it, you could cause damage.

Side pony with fishtail

Admittedly a fishtail is a braid, but it has the added benefit of making your hair look both fuller and classier as

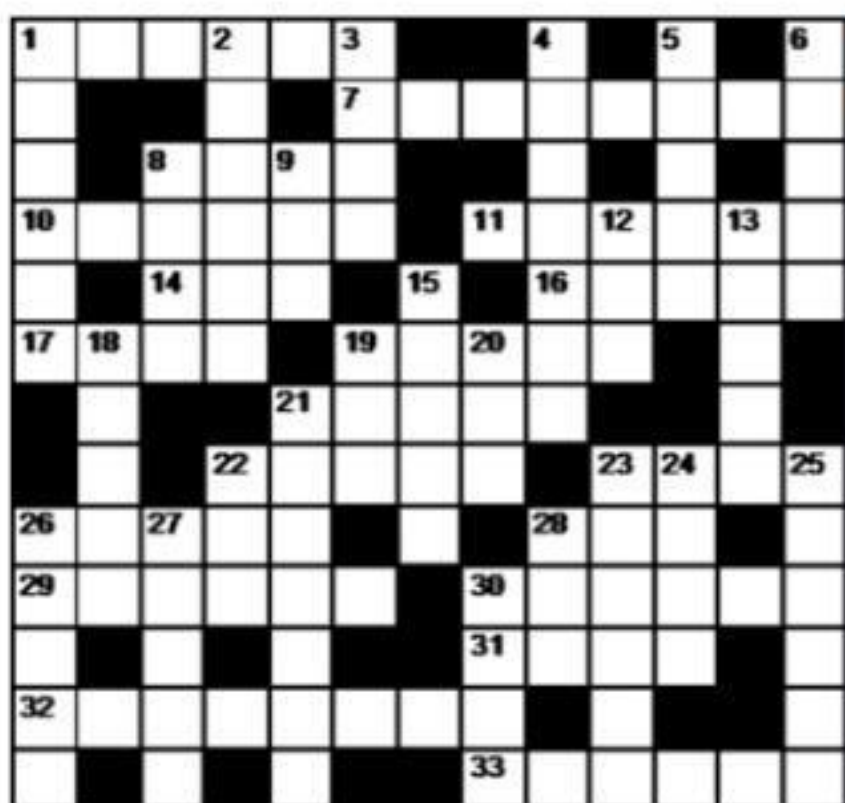
all get out. Once you've created plenty of volume with mousse, a rough dry, and a blast of heat at the roots of your hair for extra lift, pull your hair to the side in a loose pony. Now it's time to get fishy. Braid the remaining hair in the four-strand fishtail style, then secure with a hair tie.



QUICK TIP

A cowboy accessory can take the place of traditional jewellery

Neckerchiefs can take the place of a statement necklace if you want a warmer alternative to jewellery accessories for fall and winter. They're bold, bright, and eye catching, too, but feel a little more special. And bonus points if you pick a vintage one.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 18

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Eat food greedily (6)
- 7 A German governess (8)
- 8 Debatable (4)
- 10 Large tree branches (6)
- 11 Author Washington ____ (6)
- 14 Chew some, chum? (3)
- 16 US state (5)
- 17 Arched recess (4)
- 19 Rubber juice (5)
- 21 Flat hat (5)
- 22 Deli item (5)
- 23 Exchange for money (4)
- 26 Corpulent (5)
- 28 A wreath of flowers, leaves, etc., for the neck or head (3)
- 29 Eminent person (6)
- 30 Kiwi all-rounder Lance ____ (6)
- 31 Exude slowly (4)
- 32 Musical phrase - "No Taoist" anagram (8)
- 33 Abduct (6)

Down

- 1 Its capital is Banjul (6)
- 2 Irish accent (6)
- 3 Newts (4)
- 4 Four singers (7)
- 5 Spiral (5)
- 6 Hitches (5)
- 8 Attacks and robs (4)
- 9 Electrical unit for voltage upon amperage ? (3)
- 12 Annoy or make angry (3)
- 13 Of birth (5)
- 15 Gave a hoot (5)
- 18 God of the underworld (5)
- 19 Limb (3)
- 20 ____ Aviv : capital of Israel? (3)
- 21 Washing oneself (7)
- 22 On the other hand (3)
- 23 Took by force (6)
- 24 Ireland, once (4)
- 25 Improvised arrangement for temporary use (4-2)
- 26 Faint (5)
- 27 Speechify (5)
- 28 Indochinese language (3)
- 30 Prepare food (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 18

NEWS ROUNDUP

Anoushka Shankar: Important to call out inappropriate behaviour

SUGANDHA RAWAL

Grammy-nominated sitarist, composer and producer Anoushka Shankar feels it is important to call out inappropriate behaviour, and says there is a need to amplify the voices of women at all levels of the music industry.

Recently, Anoushka used social media to call out abusive and sexually inappropriate comments that she received during a live session. "In this instance I suppose I dealt with it by calling it out and refusing to accept it. I think it's important for us to consistently call out inappropriate behaviour, especially when that behaviour has been normalised, as it takes so much active work to change the status quo," said Anoushka recalling the incident.

Anoushka feels there are a lot of things that fuel hatred that women, and not just female artists, receive in the virtual world.

"Sexism? Inequality? Misogyny? The question is not about female artists but about women and inequality overall," she said when asked about the reasons why women are subjected to online hate and abuse.

Now, she has come out with "Those words", which features British composer, singer and cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson and Indian singer Shilpa Rao.



UPSC JIHAD PROGRAMME BANNED

Sudarshan TV: Free speech has become hatred, says SC

The Supreme Court Friday questioned Sudarshan TV over its Bindas Bol' programme, whose promo had claimed that the channel would show the 'big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service', and asked whether media can be allowed to target whole set of communities.

The apex court, while hearing a plea which has raised grievance over the programme, said the channel is entitled to break story but it cannot brand the entire community and alienate them by doing such kind of stories. "This is the real issue.

Whenever you show them joining civil services, you show ISIS. You want to say that Muslims joining Civil Services is a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy. Can the media be allowed to target whole set of communities," a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud asked.

Painting all candidates as carrying out an agenda shows the kind of hatred. This is the element of concern, said the bench, also comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and K M Joseph.

"Here free speech becomes hatred. You can't brand every member of the community. You alienate the good

members too by divisive agenda," it said.

The bench told senior advocate Shyam Divan, who was representing Sudarshan TV, that the court has no problem with the story on investigative journalism on funding from terror linked organisations but it cannot be said that Muslims are carrying out some agenda by going for UPSC services.

"Let a message go to media that a particular community cannot be targeted. We have to look after a nation of the future which is cohesive and diverse, it said, adding, Let this mes-

sage go to the media that the country cannot survive with such agenda. We are a court and seen as to what happened during emergency and it is our duty to see that the human dignity is preserved," said the bench.

Divan referred to the affidavit filed in the apex court by Suresh Chavhanke, Editor-in-Chief of the channel. In the affidavit, the channel has defended its programme saying it has used the term 'UPSC Jihad' based on information that 'Zakat Foundation' received funds from various terror-linked organisations. Za-

kat Foundation provides training and study materials largely to Muslim students who aspire to join civil services. Earlier, Sudarshan TV has moved an application seeking a live telecast of the hearing of the plea.

The application filed by Sudarshan News through its director and editor Suresh Chavhanke said, "It is respectfully submitted that the present case is one of the most important cases concerning the public at large as the question of freedom of press protected by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India is involved."



Army indicts troops in J&K encounter that killed 3 men

Srinagar: Soldiers involved in a controversial encounter in which three terrorists were claimed to have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian on July 18 have been indicted by the Indian Army. The army said that disciplinary action is being initiated against the accused troops.

The locals and families have alleged that the three young men were killed in a staged encounter and were cousins who were working as labourers in Shopian.

A court of inquiry instituted by the army has found that troops exceeded powers vested under Armed Forces Special Power Act or AFSPA and acted in contravention of the "Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) approved by the Supreme Court".

"The inquiry ordered by the Army authorities into Op Amshipora has been concluded. The inquiry has brought out certain prima facie evidence indicating that during the operation, powers vested under the AFSPA 1990 were exceeded and the have been contravened," a defence spokesperson said.



"Consequently, the competent disciplinary authority has directed to initiate disciplinary proceedings under the Army Act against those found prima facie answerable," he said.

The statement said that the evidence collected by the inquiry has indicated that the three unidentified terrorists killed in Op Amshipora were Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohd Ibrar, who hailed from Rajouri.

"Their DNA report is awaited. Their involvement with terrorism or related activities is under

investigation by the police," the statement added.

The encounter had triggered a major outcry after photographs of the three young men surfaced on social media. The families identified them as three cousins who went missing on July 17 from a rented accommodation in the Chowgam village in Shopian district.

Their families said that 17-year-old Ibrar, 25-year-old Imtiyaz and 20-year-old Abrar Ahmed were labourers, who had gone to Shopian to work from

Dhar Sakri village in Rajouri area in Poonch and had been out of contact since July 17, a day before the encounter.

Following the controversy, both the army and the police had said they would investigate the case. The locals had told NDTV that after the encounter, people in the area were called by the police and the army to identify the bodies - none of them turned out to be locals.

"We were called to identify the bodies. We could not identify any of them - they were not locals. They had bullets in their face, eyes and chest," said Mohammad Ashraf, a villager who lives just 100 meters from where the encounter took place.

Kashmir is one of the world's most militarised regions where the government says it has been trying to control Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for over 30 years.

Counter-terror operations and a heavy security presence even in residential areas are a common sight in the valley where thousands have been killed in terrorist attacks and military action.

India's tally over 52 lakh

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 tally raced past 52 lakh with 96,424 people testing positive in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease rose to 41,12,551 on Friday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 52,14,677, while the death toll climbed to 84,372 with the virus claiming 1,174 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection has further dropped to 1.62 per cent.

There are 10,17,754 active cases of COVID-19 in the country which comprises 19.52 per



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

on September 16. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 6,15,72,343 samples have been tested up to September 17 with 10,06,615 samples being tested on Thursday.

Keshubhai Patel tests positive

Surat: Former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel has tested positive for novel coronavirus, health officials said on Friday. He underwent a COVID-19 test as one of his attendants was detected with the infection after which samples of the former were taken for antigen and the RT-PCR process, said Gandhinagar Civil Hospital Superintendent Dr Niyati Lakhani. "His antigen test returned positive while the results for the RT-PCR test is yet to come," Lakhani informed. The 92-year-old leader's family said he is in home isolation in Gandhinagar.

Another Maha Minister infected

Mumbai (IANS): Maharashtra Congress leader and Energy Minister Nitin Raut tested Covid-19 positive here on Friday. The minister made the announcement in a tweet and urged all those who had come in contact with him in the past few days to get themselves tested.

"I have been tested positive for Covid-19 today. I would like to request all those who had come in contact with me in the past few days to get themselves tested as a precautionary measure. Stay safe everyone and take care," Raut said. Raut becomes the 8th Minister in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to be infected in the past six months of the pandemic gripping the planet.

'Motivation, encouragement' main mantra to promote Hindi

Owing to Covid 19 pandemic, the Annual Hindi Diwas, organised by Bureau of Outreach and Communication Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will be a fortnightly affair, this year.

The Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 14 every year. The programmes to promote official language all over the country have already begun. Precautions are also being taken to defeat the virus by following the government guidelines of social distancing.

DG Satyendra Prakash has asked the officials and staff of Bureau of Outreach and Communication Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to participate in all the programmes and at the same time follow the Government of India guidelines on Covid 19.

The 15-day celebrations will conclude on September 29. This year's basic mantra to promote our National language is "Motivation and encouragement."

Knowledge of official language, hindi noting and writing format; general Hindi knowledge of MTS, pure hindi sentence structure are some of the competitions to be organised during this period.

The Bureau has asked it's State and regional offices to also hold Hindi Diwas programmes at their centres

Rapid 90-minute test highly accurate

London (IANS): Researchers have created a 90-minute high speed Covid-19 test which does not require a laboratory and can be performed in cartridges smaller than a mobile phone with high accuracy. The study, published in the journal The Lancet Microbe, revealed that the Lab-in-Cartridge rapid testing device, which can be performed at a patient's bedside, was shown to have over 94 per cent sensitivity and 100 per cent specificity. It means that it had a high level of accuracy and produced very few false negatives and no false positives.

To perform the test, a paediatric-sized

nose swab from a patient is inserted into the device, which then looks for traces of genetic material belonging to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19.

A result is available within 90 minutes, compared to conventional Covid-19 testing which delivers a result in 24 hours. "These results suggest the test, which can be performed at a patient's bedside without the need to handle any sample material, has comparable accuracy to standard laboratory testing," said study researcher Graham Cooke from the Kings College London in the UK.

CBI's SIT appraises sr officials of findings in SSR's death case



Mumbai: A day after returning from Mumbai, the Special Investigation Team of the CBI met senior officials and apprised them of the findings into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. The team had returned from Mumbai almost a month after recording the statements of several people and recreating the crime scene. The team will hold a meeting next week with the AIIMS forensic team, sources said. A thorough re-examination of the scene of crime, which includes the bedroom and duplex flat of Sushant Singh Rajput, where the star allegedly died by suicide, and autopsy files were conducted by the forensic experts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to ascertain the cause of death. Highly placed sources in the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, AIIMS told IANS that findings of its expert team would certainly shed light on the mysterious death. The Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, AIIMS, Dr Sudhir Gupta also stated that findings which are conclusive will only be shared with CBI.

Mumbai Police has quashed media reports that claim late celebrity manager Disha Salian dialed 100 from her phone before she allegedly died by suicide on June 8. Some have also alleged that the deaths of Sushant Singh Rajput and Disha are interlinked, but the Mumbai Police did not investigate the Disha angle. In the major drug expose in B-Town linked to the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, key producers, directors, actors, actresses and other film personalities are likely to be called for questioning next week onwards. The sustained interrogation of siblings Rhea and Showik Chakraborty has revealed that around 20 such people were involved in the consumption and use of these drugs. The propensity to use curated marijuana buds, cocaine, MDMA and other synthetic tablets was commonplace in this drug circuit in B-Town

Nepal introduces revised map in textbooks amid border dispute with India



New Delhi: Nepal has introduced new text books in the school curriculum that include the country's revised political map showing three strategically-important Indian areas as part of its territory, amidst a border dispute with India.

India has already termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains

belongs to it. The curriculum Development Centre, under the Ministry of Education, recently published the books with the revised map, information officer at the centre Ganesh Bhattarai told PTI. The new books titled "Nepal's territory and reading materials for border issues" for the 9th and 12th classes have a preface written by Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel. India in May released the revised political and administrative map of the country laying claim over the three strategically important areas in Uttarakhand, more than six months after India published a new map in November 2019. Following the endorsement of the new map by the Nepal Cabinet, then government spokesperson and Finance Minister Yuvaraj Khatriwada told the media that the government had decided to update the schedule of the Constitution and

school curriculum incorporating the new political map. India in its response said that it had already made its position clear on it.

"This artificial enlargement of claims is not based on historical fact or evidence and is not tenable. It is also violative of our current understanding to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues," Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava had said.

The Nepal government has also decided to issue coins with the inclusion of Kalapani area. The government has instructed the Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, to mint the coins with the revised map. An official at the bank, however, said that they had no immediate plan to mint the coin, though preparations are on to issue coins worth Rs. 1 and Rs. 2 with the inclusion of the new map within a year.

FROM 25th to 29th SEP 2020

RUN ANYWHERE. GET E-MEDALS. WIN PRIZES. READY?

FOR REGISTRATIONS LOG ON TO:

Ticketing Partner

iFINISH. bookmyshow

TICKETING PARTNER paytm insider

Saving Partner GrabOn

Radio Partner Radio City

FM BOLE TOH 91.1 FM

A JAGRAN INITIATIVE

6305196713, 8639308834

Horrific sexual crime

Protests continue in cities across Pakistan after the police chief investigating the gang rape of a French woman on a major national highway blamed the victim for travelling late at night without a male companion. Sounds familiar? After all, it is only a political border that divides us. Attitudes are the same. The woman was attacked at around 1:30 am local time on September 11 after her car broke down on the Lahore-Sialkot motorway, while she was driving from Lahore to Gujranwala with her two children. She called the police and waited.

In her statement to the police, the woman said she was waiting for help to arrive when a group of men smashed her window, dragged her out of the car and raped her at gunpoint in front of her children in a nearby field. Disgust around the case increased when the lead police investigator told the media that the woman should have known better than to travel

alone at night. He said no one in Pakistani society would “allow their sisters and daughters to travel alone so late” and she should have taken a safer highway and made sure she had enough fuel for the journey. The victim is a resident of France, and Sheikh said she “mistook that Pakistani society is just as safe”.

The protests were organised by a group called the Aurat March. The group set forth five demands, including an end to violence, affirmative steps by the government to uphold rights and ensure justice, removal of Lahore Capital City Police Officer who blamed the woman, structural and procedural reforms in the laws and effective and transparent investigation. Imran Khan, the prime minister, said on Twitter that he was following the case closely and had asked investigators for the “arrest and sentencing of those involved in the incident as soon as possible”. He added: “Such brutality and bestiality cannot be allowed in any civilised society.”

Pakistan police arrested 15 people in connection with the incident, but they were later reported to be

not directly involved in the incident. They have now identified the two main suspects through DNA tracing and have made one arrest in this connection. There are calls for ‘public hangings’ as the final solution to heinous crimes against women. But such suggestions miss the entire point. In 2018, six-year-old Zainab’s rapist and murderer was hanged. And given the ‘logic’ that capital punishment serves as a deterrent to crime, the hanging should have led to a considerable decline in cases of child sex abuse.

However, according to child right’s organisation Sahil, there was a 11 per cent increase in reported cases of child sex abuse that year, with a total of 3,832 cases registered. Pakistan had earlier with its new laws has proved that sexual offences were hard to prove. It happened during Zia-ul-Haq’s time. Though the death sentence was brought in, nobody was hanged because nobody was convicted. Basically, Pakistan needs to stop looking for quick fixes and continue talking about sexual violence even after the current protests cool down, as they inevitably will. It applies for India too.



The Indian cricket pantomime ready to explode

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

The entertainment that every Indian cricket lover is so anxiously waiting -- the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 -- is about to start. The first match between the two top teams of the tournament will take place on Saturday at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. Reigning champions Mumbai Indians (MI), led by Rohit Sharma, will lock horns with last year’s runners-up Chennai Super Kings (CSK), captained by the man who recently announced retirement from international cricket, Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

The aura and mystery that Dhoni emanates is like a halo around his head. He has been away from cricket for a year but just his presence is enough to create an element of worry in the opponents’ mind.

The CSK may be referred to as ‘Dad’s Army’, but it is a very experienced unit and can never be taken lightly. A recent fun competition between their two hard-hitting batsmen -- Shane Watson and Dhoni - in the nets as to who can hit the ball farthest in the UAE just shows what power play is in store for all of us.

Both these international legends have nothing to prove or fear. And along with Faf du Plessis, Dwayne Bravo, Ravindra Jadeja and Ambati Rayudu, to mention a few, they will be a force to reckon with for all the teams in the competition.

The IPL has become the heart and soul of Indian cricket. The T20 format may not be the epitome of what conventional cricket is all about but it replicates the characteristics, values, attitude of the people and the vibrant surroundings of the modern world that we live in.

The ‘work from home’ (WFH) syndrome has led to what could be called ‘watch from home’ -- cricket and other sports as well. Cricket, one feels, will be played in stadiums without spectators for quite a while and the sooner cricketers accept this reality, the better it will be for them. A sportsman's adrenaline does make his heart beat faster in an atmosphere filled with loud cheering and crowds egging them on. However, cricketers will now need to find their own path, mentally, and ways to excel in the silence that they will face.

The heat and humidity in the UAE will play a major role in the performances of individuals and teams. This is where fitness trainers, more than coaches, will play an important part. The modern technology has given them the tools to monitor each individual thoroughly. The wear and tear of the muscles, the fatigue factor, the loss of body fluids, and many other such important details are being thoroughly checked. Getting players ready and fit and mentally fresh to play in intense heat will be a task of immense importance and the fortune of the teams will depend on it.

Cricketers being athletes should be able to handle the initial period of the tournament, but the second half will be crucial. This is when boredom sets in and the eagerness and enthusiasm will be on gradual ebb.

T20 cricket is very much a batsman’s game and hence the IPL 2020 will have plenty of runs with a plethora of fours and sixes. The wickets will be ideal for batting, as the ball will come slow and low because of the hot weather. The fast bowlers will only get movement initially when the ball is new but later on they will need to outsmart the batsmen through variations in length, speed and other such deception.

Spin will play an important part as the wickets should assist some turn but the sweaty fingers will make it difficult for spinners to get a firm grip on the ball. It will be interesting to see how bowlers who sweat profusely manage to keep their fingers dry.

The beauty of the T20 format is such that one cannot predict a winner. The shorter version tends to make teams more equally balanced, as one does not have enough overs to make it a one-sided affair. The element of luck also plays a major part in a team’s fortune as the game has so many uncertainties that on a given day, the ‘hand of god, could play an important part.

All eight teams have some extraordinary international and Indian players and young Indian cricketers as well. The teams comprise support staff and coaches of international standard and analysts who can produce data for every given situation. Professionalism brought in by franchise-owned teams has been the most progressive aspect so far Indian cricket is concerned. This has been the foremost advantage that young Indian cricketers have experienced and the processes and systems learnt by them have gradually filtered into every corner of Indian cricket. The IPL has been a boon not only in bringing financial benefits to the BCCI. It has also been the Indian cricket pantomime to not just millions of Indian cricket followers but also for thousands of young cricketers playing the game in India.

Delhi Capitals, Kings XI Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore are still to win the trophy. Each one of them has players who can make this year a memorable one for themselves. For me, however, Rajasthan Royals have that ‘Royal Rajput’ touch to them. A team comprising the best all-rounder in the world in Ben Stokes and one of the most lethal fast bowlers in Jofra Archer, along with one of the world’s leading batsmen, Steven Smith, and the most destructive wicket-keeper-batsman in Jos Buttler seems an ideal combination to get RR the trophy they have been striving for since they won the inaugural tournament in 2008.

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former Test cricketer. Views expressed are personal)

Deskbound media needs to break bondage



The national media suddenly woke up and made a hue and cry on the High Court’s order directing the I&PR and DGP to ensure that the contents of FIR filed against the former Advocate General in the alleged insider trading case do not appear in print, electronic and social media. Almost half a day was allocated for debates and discussions on how the media was being gagged.

What needs to be observed here: Is media free? Is it calling a spade a spade? Is it showing its spine in exposing the omissions and commissions of the governments whether at the Centre or in the States? Has media not been gagged long ago by the parties in power which resort to arm-twisting methods by not giving advertisements if any media - print or electronic - criticises any action of the government forgetting the advertisements are being funded by public money and there are set of rules and guidelines for release of advertisements. There has been no discussion on this and no protest by the journalist unions on this.

Not just this issue, even when the NDA government has passed the Farm Bill and the Opposition parties as well as the Akali Dal which was an ally of the NDA till yesterday evening, are opposing it, there is hardly any discussion on its merits and demerits. The Congress called the Modi government as “akin to corona pandemic as it is attacking the lives and livelihoods of farmers and was bartering agriculture at the doorsteps of crony capitalists.”

They said the draconian laws on agriculture will be a death knell for the future of farming in India. Congress spokesperson Surjewala claimed that 62 crore farmers and farm labourers have been agitating across India and over 250 farmer organisations were up in arms across the country. He alleged that the NDA government was drunk with power and determined to serve the crony capitalist friends. The government, he felt, was not con-

cerned about the plight and agony of farmers and wants to muzzle their voice. This Bill is intended to take the country towards corporate farming, the Congress believes. According to them, the biggest flaw is that this will do away with the minimum support price and with mandis getting abolished, the farmer would be at the mercy of big companies. In other words, they say that from the mercy of small-time middlemen, the farmers will be at the mercy of big companies.

The Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said the legislation will adversely affect farmers and would have great impact on the agriculture sector in the country. He was of the opinion that this legislation will usher in a healthy competition and would create a friendly ecosystem for farmers and traders alike. The farmer will have the freedom to dictate his terms and conditions as far as the price is concerned since he would now the entire country would be his marketplace. This would reduce the trader exploitation. Some experts feel that this would transform the destiny of farmers towards prosperity and take India on the path to become global power in agriculture.

The Prime Minister too has a valid point here. He feels that this would first end the political game of making all and sundry promises to the farmers by political parties on the eve of elections, incorporate those unconditional promise showing heaven in the palm in their manifesto and once in power incorporate all kinds of conditions depriving the farmers of the promised benefits. This all parties have been doing all these years. We have seen how they had promised waiver of agricultural loans if voted to power and how they had diluted the scheme after coming to power. So is the case with many other such promises.

He emphasised on the fact that “fake news is being spread that wheat and rice etc will not be procured by government agencies from farmers. This is an absolute lie, completely wrong and an attempt to deceive farmers,” he said forcefully. “I appeal to all farmers across the country to beware about all those who are raising a false alarm about farm issues. And so, I say this again - beware of all those who are trying to misguide



This being the situation, what is surprising is that the national media did not feel it necessary to tear into the bill and its contents once it was passed by the Lok Sabha and present a wide range of opinions on its advantages and disadvantages but was more concerned about the so called “gag” of the media in one particular case in Andhra Pradesh. The AP government had on October 30 2019 issued a GO No. 2430 based on an earlier GO 938, dated February 20, 2007, according permission to the Special Commissioner, Information and Public Relations, and Departmental Secretaries to issue rejoinders, file complaints and lodge appropriate cases through public prosecutors against editors and publishers of newspapers and news channels, against defamatory news items. No national media spoke about it at that time. Was this not gagging media? No MP spoke about it though this order was uncalled for when there are penal sections to handle the misdoings of the media.

you and instigate you. All they want to do is keep you in your misery and exploit the old system. These people, who have been in power for decades and have spoken so much about farmers and farm issues have done nothing.”

The government is “committed to help farmers get right prices through Minimum Support Price,” Modi said trying to counter the Opposition attack. He also said, “Farmers are watching that some people are hating the new opportunities they are getting. Farmers are

watching who are standing with middlemen.” The Opposition which is in a state of disarray sees this as an opportunity and the country is likely to witness some agitations particularly in the Hindi belt of Punjab and Haryana alleging that the farmers would be short-changed.

The BJP of course will have a tough time countering the criticism and handling the protests of farmers. In north, triggering agitation by farmers is easier despite corona pandemic since the Akali Dal government in Punjab which is the oldest ally of NDA

is in power in Punjab. The impact of this would not be felt in the two Telugu states as the agricultural movements here are not as strong as in North.

This being the situation, what is surprising is that the national media did not feel it necessary to tear into the bill and its contents once it was passed by the Lok Sabha and present a wide range of opinions on its advantages and disadvantages but was more concerned about the so called “gag” of the media in one particular case in Andhra Pradesh. The AP government had on October 30 2019 issued a GO No. 2430 based on an earlier GO 938, dated February 20, 2007, according permission to the Special Commissioner, Information and Public Relations, and Departmental Secretaries to issue rejoinders, file complaints and lodge appropriate cases through public prosecutors against editors and publishers of newspapers and news channels, against defamatory news items. No national media spoke about it at that time. Was this not gagging media? No MP spoke about it though this order was uncalled for when there are penal sections to handle the misdoings of the media.

When the GO 938 was issued by the then Congress government in February 2007, the entire media both here and at national level was up in arms and late at night the government decided to put it in cold storage. Barring some protests by the journalist organisations and a few protests, there was no concerted effort to fight the GO. The big question is whether there is a need for media to let the governments gag them in one form or the other?

September 17 controversy

Come September every year, the issue of liberation and merger (vimochanam, vileenam) becomes talk of the town in Telangana State. To seek clarity on this ticklish point, it is pertinent to have a look into some vital historical facts of 1947 and thereafter. After partition of Indian subcontinent followed with independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, as Home Minister, took charge of integration of Princely States and ensured to accede 546 Princely States, into independent India, except Jammu and Kashmir in north and Nizam State of Hyderabad in South. The seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan initially decided to remain independent, later expressed his desire to accede Hyderabad State with Pakistan! The Andhra Mahasabha volunteers then started a movement to merge the State with Indian subcontinent, which led the Nizam police to crush it with an iron hand. A civil disobedience like situation engulfed in the State, when landlords, with the support of Nizam govt tried to nip this unrest.

The Razakars, a radical terror group of Qasim Razvi, a firebrand leader and ardent admirer of M A Jinnah (founder of Pakistan), with the blessings of Nizam Police and assistance of landlords created havoc in villages with merciless killings of innocent men and raping several women. The Communists leaders led landless and bonded agriculture labour to unite and revolt against the landlords and fight with Razakars. This violent situation created mayhem in the State where innocent people became prey in the hands of Razakars and police brutality.

Meanwhile, the Nizam Govt with the help of Pakistan, proposed to move UN, to highlight the interference of Indian govt in the independent Nizam State. Without further loss of time, Sardar Patel, deputed Indian army with the code name, Mission Operation Polo on 13th

LETTERS

September 1948 to Hyderabad State. Peace restored in the region on 17th September; and being cornered, Mir Osman Ali surrendered to Indian Military, acceded to ‘merge’ his State with India. Eventually, the landlords, so-called puppets of Nizam, with his exit, fell in the line and set free the bonded labour who enjoyed liberation with the efforts of Communists.

One can therefore observe, it is not present day political parties, but only Andhra Mahasabha volunteers and local Communists who played key role at that time. All these events clearly denote that while Hyderabad State ‘merged’ with the Indian Union by the consent of Nizam, the landless farmers were ‘liberated’ from bonded labour of landlords with the action of Operation Polo.

Govardhan R Jilla, Mumbai

Beware of Pak-China nexus

Pakistan is making inroads into Gilgit-Baltistan a full-fledged province of Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir. India is coolly expressing anguish that Pakistan has no locus standi to illegally occupy our land. In-



dia is paying price for not being able to extinguish this burning issue in seven decades of independence. On the other hand China is fast encroaching upon our border area. It is axiomatic that these two shenanigan and inimical countries may jointly attack us at any time. India should not limit up with harsh dialogues. Our armed strength and ammunition power are at low level compared to these combined hostile neighbours. Practicality in dealing with their movements is more essential than voicing our resentment. No country hitherto declared in support of India. We should not run for water after fire engulfs us.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

Govt apathetic on migrant issue

The government recently stated that it has no data about the death of migrant workers who died while returning home amidst the pandemic. Most of us are aware of the Aurangabad rail incident which killed 16 migrant workers. However, there are many more who have lost their lives in these difficult times. The Indian Railways has confirmed that a minimum of 80 people died on the Shramik Special trains. As per media reports, at least 250 migrants have died during the lockdown. The reason for the deaths ranges from forest fires to road accidents. However, the government claims to have no record of the lives lost. There is no information about the helpless and poor people who died while trying to reach home. The government is accountable and answerable to the citizens. It is its prime duty to ensure the welfare of all Indians.

Ishika Mittal, Bengaluru

thehansreader@gmail.com

Police foil BJP's 'Chalo Amalapuram' agitation



PJP state president Somu Veerajulu placed under house arrest at Tadepalli on Friday

- The party called for the protest over burning of chariot at Antarvedi and 'illegal' cases foisted against its supporters for allegedly pelting stones at a church
- Party leaders, including state president Veerajulu, were placed under either house arrest or detained
- Prohibitory orders under Cr PC Section 144 in and around Amalapuram citing Covid-19 protocol

Amaravati: Police on Friday foiled the BJP's 'Chalo Amalapuram' agitation against the recent Antarvedi temple chariot fire. Party state unit president Somu Veerajulu and several leaders of the party were either placed under house arrest or detained by police in a state-wide crackdown to foil the Chalo Amalapuram call in protest against the "growing attacks" on Hindu temples. Veerajulu, who is also a member of the state Legislative Council, was placed under house arrest at Tadepalli near here, close to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's residence, ahead of the protest on Friday, police sources said.

"Government is arresting Hindus who are protesting because their religious feelings have been hurt. Is it justified for the government to wash its hands of by pointing a finger at a mentally unstable man over the incident," questioned Veerajulu.

Eluru range deputy inspector general of Police, K. V. Mohan Rao, advised the BJP workers and sympathisers not to arrive in

Amalapuram as the police have enforced restrictions.

He said the department has clamped down Cr PC Section 144 all over the Konaseema region in the district to discourage people from arriving. He also reminded them of the prevailing coron-

avirus pandemic.

The BJP gave the Chalo Amalapuram call over the burning of the wooden chariot of famous Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi in East Godavari district on September 6 and also against "illegal arrest" of 41 people for alleged stone pelting on a church in the town.

MLC P V N Madhav managed to reach the proposed agitation spot in Amalapuram, near Antarvedi, along with a couple of other leaders, but they were removed by police and taken in jeeps to different police stations.

The crackdown on BJP leaders began late on Thursday night when the state unit general secretary S Vishnuvardhan Reddy was 'forcibly' taken away from his place of stay in Amalapuram.

Vishnuvardhan, who enjoys the rank of Union minister of state being the Vice-Chairman of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, alleged police took him on a tour of over 300 kilometre through the night and later detained him in an undisclosed private location.

Former Union minister Dagubati Purandeswari was placed under house arrest in Karmachedu in Prakasam district while former state minister Ravela Kishore Babu, former MLA Chinnam Ramakotaiah and several other leaders were detained at different places, police sources said.

MPs write to Amit Shah

Amaravati: Rajya Sabha members of BJP G V L Narasimha Rao and C M Ramesh wrote a letter to Union home minister Amit Shah deploring the "illegal detention" of BJP leaders in Andhra Pradesh and also alleged foisting of false cases against Hindus.

They requested Shah to direct the state government to act in accordance with the Constitutional mandate in an unbiased manner and not target the Hindu community and its temples.

The MPs claimed there were at least 18 acts of 'sacrilege' on temples ever since the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government assumed office.

Centre declares Telangana fluoride-free

Continued from P1

Fluoride had crippled lakhs of people and had been the major problem for many decades. He said it was not the claim of the Telangana Government but it is the Centre which had declared Telangana State as fluoride-free state in the country. He said this was one of the major promises the TRS had made even during the agitation for separate state.

It may be mentioned here that Nalgonda district drew national attention when former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former President APJ Abdul Kalam expressed serious concern over the increase of the fluoride cases at alarming levels in the Telangana region.

Fluorosis is a disease caused by excessive intake of fluorides

through water, beverages like tea and food and the disease is further aggravated by malnutrition. Those who were afflicted by the fluoride disease would have crippled limbs, twisted joints, bent spine, disfigured faces, stunted growth and yellowish or brownish enamel and people dying at early age was another cause of concern.

At the time of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the total number of fluoride-affected habitations in the Telangana region were 967. The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, said in an official statement that Telangana was one among the three States freed from fluoride problem. The other two highly-affected states were Gu-

jarat and Uttarakhand.

The Union ministry said that "the Government of Telangana has successfully neutralized the fluoride affected habitation zones." The number of fluoride-affected water zones have been brought down to zero from 967 with the initiation of Mission Bhagiratha by the State government."

In a tweet, State Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao claimed the Mission Bhagiratha has brought revolutionary changes in the lives of fluoride-affected villagers. The cases started declining ever since the habitations were supplied with safe drinking water under the mission taken up at the cost of Rs 40,000 crore in 2015.

Fireworks at river meet

Continued from P1

The officials took objection to the way the Centre had worked out a unilateral proposal without consulting the stakeholder States.

The officials explained to the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) about the plight of Telangana after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in the utilisation of river waters.

The linking of the rivers is unwarranted without addressing the concerns raised by the Telangana on river water sharing, they said. The officials argued that the available water in Godavari was enough to meet the requirement of Telangana and

Andhra Pradesh. There would not be any excess water available thereafter. The issue of surplus water will be sorted out only after the finalisation of water sharing between the two Telugu states. The TS government reiterated that the Centre should take up Mahanadi - Godavari linking project first.

The Centre is planning to lift 247 tmc feet of water from Godavari under the inter-state river linking project. Out of 247 tmc, it proposes to supply 85 tmc to Tamil Nadu for drinking purposes and the remaining water will be supplied to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir.

Dubai suspends AI Express flights till Oct 2

Continued from P1

"The notice has been issued on account of erroneous acceptance of one Covid positive passenger by the airline's ground handling agents at Delhi and Jaipur on Air India Express flights to Dubai on 28th Aug and 4th Sep, respectively," the airline noted.

It said the ground handling agencies have taken appropri-

ate punitive action against their employees who have been held accountable for the lapses at Delhi and Jaipur.

Air India Express' ground handling in India is done by Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL), which is a subsidiary of the national carrier Air India.

Air India Express is also a subsidiary of Air India.

Tirumala Brahmotsavams without devotees from today

- The 9-day grand ritual of the hill shrine will have no Vahana sevas or any processions this time due to Covid restrictions
- Former priest Ramana Deekshithulu says the fest was conducted in the past as usual even at the time of natural calamities or even invasions
- Sources say the daily Vahana sevas will be held in Kalyana Mandapam at Sampangi prakaram in the shrine

G SRIDHAR

Tirupati: Tirumala Brahmotsavam is synonym with multitudes of pilgrims, glittering vahana sevas, colourful cultural and devotional events like Bhajans and chantings reverberating in the holy hills.

But it will be different this time. Due to Covid effect, TTD is going to conduct the nine-day-long religious celebrations in Ekantham from Saturday, September 19.

In other words, the Utsavam is confined to the shrine limited to TTD authorities and staff, priests and Jeeyangars concern with the conduct of the annual fete. There will be no procession of the deities atop decorated Vahanams in the open in Mada Streets around the shrine feasting the eyes of lakhs of devotees or cultural programmes by best troupes from across the country.

"Probably it may be the first time the Utsavam without devotees, disappointing every one. The Utsavam went on even during natural calamities like heavy rains, floods, famines, pandemic and even invasions in the region," said Tirumala temple former chief priest A V Ramana Deekshithulu whose family is associated as hereditary priests with the shrine for 36 generations.

The Covid restrictions affecting the important religious fete also hit hard other sections like shopkeepers, private transport operators, hoteliers and who could have made some money during Brahmotsavam with

CAG audit CM's decision:TTD chief

- TTD chairman says the current TTD Board has cleaned up the darshan ticket system eliminating middlemen
- Denies propaganda of other religions at the temple, threatens police cases on those making such false allegations

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy said that the trust board had requested the Centre to handover audit of TTD accounts to Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the instructions of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy only.

Speaking to media persons at Tirumala Annamayya Bhavan on Friday, the chairman said that BJP MP Dr Subramanian Swamy had already filed a petition for third party auditing of TTD expenditure and accounts in the last five years. "The Chief Minister has clearly instructed that auditing be handed over to CAG as long as the present board continued. Accordingly, we wrote to the Centre seeking CAG audit of the TTD accounts," he explained.

He also claimed that the current



TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy addressing media at Annamayya Bhavan at Tirumala on Friday. TTD EO Anil Kumar Singha and Addl EO A V Dharmma Reddy are also seen

board had eradicated the middlemen system and malpractices in issuing of darshan tickets.

On Brahmotsavams that will begin on Saturday, he said Vahana Sevas will be conducted between 9 to 10 am and 7 to 8 pm. On the day of Garuda Seva, i.e. September 23, Karnataka Chief Minister Yediyurappa and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy will participate in Vahan Seva. Jagan will also present silk vasthanams to the deity on behalf of the state government, Subba Reddy said.

To a question, he said TTD had given funds to Visakha Sharada

Peetam as part of Dharmika Pracharam. But he hastened to add that the TTD had previously provided financial aid to several Hindu religious mutts. He was reacting to TDP's allegations on the financial aid to the peetam.

Strongly denying allegations of propaganda of other religions at Tirumala, he warned that those making such false allegations would be booked. Later, TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal said that Rs 5000 core deposits would mature in December this year and the board discuss on ways to get higher interest on these funds.

heavy congregation of people gathering daily to witness the religious events.

It also adversely impacted mutts, Hindu charitable institutions based on the hills hosting thousands of devotees from various states facilitating them to participate in the fete.

A 80-year-old mutt manager said that he had not heard of the Utsavam being held with no participation of devotees whom the God love most in the long Tirumala history.

The deserted look of once crowded mutts, shopping areas, taxi stands, cottages, pilgrim amenities complexes a tell picture of the grim situation due to Covid on the hill top temple town.

Temple sources said the daily Vahana sevas will be held in Kalyana Mandapam located in

Sampangi prakaram in the shrine while other rituals preceding and following the Vahana seva like decoration of idols, sallimpu, sathumora and snapana thirumanjan will be at Ranganayakula Mandapam in the temple.

The Kalyana Mandapam will be readied daily with decoration in the morning and evenings for the idols which will be brought on flower-decked Tiruchi (palanquin) to the accompaniment of traditional music to Kalyana-mandapam, nearby where the idols will be placed on the Vahanams. All the rituals like Divyaprabhanda Parayanam, Veda Parayanam, Harathi, Naivedyam will be observed. Jeeyar Swamjis will lead Sathumora after which Harathi will be performed again before the idols taken back to Rangabayakula Mandapam.

The daily Vahana seva, includ-

ing rituals, will be over in 45 to 60 minute while normally in the Mada streets it takes two hours for completion.

Even the last day of the event Chakra Snamam marking the conclusion of the nine day Brahmotsavam which usually held in the holy Pushkarini, holy temple tank, will be held this time in the temple itself while another important fete Maharathotsavam wood chariot procession also stands cancelled.

In essences, the popular Brahmotsvam if the famed 2000 year old Sri Venkateswara temple will be held this time without any fanfare and limiting it limited number of temple authorities, staff, Archakas, Adhyapakas and Jeeyangar with no devotees the lovable ones of the God who become popular with huge devotees following World over.

PM defends farm bills

Continued from P1

Modi addressed farmers over concerns about prices and the country's procurement system, under which the government buys farm produce at minimum support prices (MSP) from farmers. "People who ruled this country for decades and were in power... such people are trying to mislead farmers. They are telling lies to farmers," Modi said.

"Fake news is also being spread that wheat and rice etc. will not be procured by government agencies from farmers. This is an absolute lie, completely wrong and an attempt to cheat farmers," the Prime Minister said.

A key Bill, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, allows buyers of farm produce to trade outside the mandi system or wholesale market system run by states under the agricultural produce market committees or APMCs.

APMC laws require farmers to only sell to licensed middlemen in notified markets, usu-

ally in the same area where the farmers reside, rather than in open markets, which economists say scuttles price discovery, hurting farm profits. The Bill enables farmers and buyers of their produce to trade outside these markets without any taxes and will therefore open up APMCs to competitions.

"The reforms will give new freedom to farmers. These reforms will bring more options and opportunities for farmers to sell their produce," he said.

Congratulating farmers of the country over passage of this bills in the lower House, Modi said the reforms would "protect farmers" from "middlemen". "Middlemen stand between farmers and their customers; these middlemen take a big chunk of farmers' income. These reforms have come as a protective shield for farmers."

"The agriculture sector will benefit from modern technology and our farmers will also be empowered," the Prime Minister said in a series of tweets.

CM announces hike in Arogya Asara benefit

Amaravati: In a crucial decision to give added fillip to the YSR Arogya Asara scheme, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday announced further hike in the financial assistance given under the prestigious scheme. The Chief Minister has decided to increase the monetary support given to women for normal delivery of their babies from the existing Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 while the financial assistance for the Cesarean section deliveries was hiked from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000.

Speaking on this issue, the Chief Minister directed the authorities to focus more on districts where hospital services are found to be unsatisfactory. He set a two-week deadline for the officials to improve the situation. Referring to the Arogyasri scheme, the Chief Minister categorically stated that all protocols and regulations should be implemented in right earnest in all the Arogyasri network hospitals.

Jagan warned that strict action would be initiated if the situation does not improve within six months. The Chief Minister also issued directions that the responsibility of Arogyasri scheme coordination in districts be entrusted to joint collectors.

Centre hikes paddy target in Nellore dist

New Delhi: The ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution agreed to enhance the paddy procurement target in Nellore district by procuring a total of 34.8 lakh metric tonne (MT) during the rabi crop and also further extend the paddy procurement

season in the district till October 31.

Earlier, towards the end of August, the ministry had extended the paddy procurement season in Nellore district by one month till September 30 following Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu's intervention.

Google pulls Paytm app from Play Store

Continued from P1

Commenting on the removal from Play Store, Paytm in a statement on Twitter said, "Paytm Android app is temporarily unavailable on Google's Play Store for new downloads or updates. It will be back very soon. All your money is completely safe, and you can continue to enjoy your Paytm app as normal."

Google has apparently removed the Paytm app because it allegedly violates the company's rules around online gambling. A source within Google said that the Google team that worked with developers reached out to Paytm repeatedly to fix the issues

with the app. However, Paytm made repeated violations of the Google policy, noted the source.

Paytm vanished from Google Play Store a few hours after Google's Suzanne Frey, who is Vice President, Product, Android Security and Privacy, detailed the guidelines in a blog post. "We have these policies to protect users from potential harm. When an app violates these policies, we notify the developer of the violation and remove the app from Google Play until the developer brings the app into compliance. And in the case where there are repeated policy violations, we may take more serious action

which may include terminating Google Play Developer accounts. Our policies are applied and enforced on all developers consistently," she wrote.


"We have the same goals for our gambling policy. We don't allow online casinos or support any unregulated gambling apps that facilitate sports betting. This includes if an app leads consumers to an external website that allows them to participate in paid tournaments to win real money or cash prizes, it is a violation of our policies," wrote Suzanne.

What this means is that Google has apparently removed

Paytm from the Play store because it believed the app was violating its new guidelines on online gambling or contests.

Reports have claimed that Google had notified the developers of Paytm about the removal and it continues to be in touch with Paytm to get the app back on Play Store.

Paytm is owned by an Indian company called One97 Communications Ltd, which was founded by Vijay Shekhar Sharma but the company had received massive funding from fintech firm Ant Financials, which is an ally of China's Alibaba group.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	77.86	South		
Euro	91.35	African Rand		5.23
UAE Dirham	21.99	Hong Kong Dollar		10.9
Thai Baht	2.71	Japanese Yen		0.81
British Pound	99.21	New Zealand Dollar		52.29
Australian Dollar	56.34	Saudi Riyal		21.54
Canadian Dollar	58.58	Swedish Krona		9.61
Swiss Franc	84.06	Singapore Dollar		56.83

BIZ BRIEFS

Jio Fiber in Vizag

Hyderabad: JioFiber, which provides high-speed broadband services, is now offering its affordable services to the people of Visakhapatnam. JioFiber, a part of Reliance Jio, recently revamped its tariff plans. New JioFiber plans come with unlimited internet, unlimited voice calling, symmetric speed and affordable plans, starting from Rs 399. Further, the company is also offering 30-day free trial for new customers wherein it provides customers with 150 mbps speed and unlimited internet along with 10 free OTT apps for 30 days and gives the option to take it back if the customer wishes so after the free trial.

"With working from home and online classes becoming the general norm of the day in the present challenging situation, consistent high-speed internet has become an essential requirement for many," it said.

Vivo Y20 gets new variant

Hyderabad: Smartphone maker Vivo launched a new colour and memory variant of the newly-launched Vivo Y20. The device will now be available in 6GB RAM + 64GB ROM in two color options: the new Purist Blue and the much-favorite Obsidian Black. It will be available across offline partner retail stores, Vivo India E-store, and other major ecommerce websites starting September 24, 2020. The Y20 is also available in a 4+64GB in Purist Blue, Obsidian Black and Dawn White and was launched late August 2020. "All variants of the Vivo Y20 come equipped with the Super AI Triple camera setup which provides enhanced picture capabilities with 13MP main camera, 2MP Bokeh camera and a Macrocamera.

Corrigendum

It was erroneously mentioned 'Crisil' in the place of 'Icra' in the sub-heading of news item published under headline 'Divesting majority stake in PSBs will be credit negative' in these columns on Thursday.

COVID FALLOUT

Fiscal deficit may rise to ₹14.6L cr in FY21

Economic disruptions caused by pandemic likely to last long

New Delhi: The gap between government's total income and expenditure is expected to balloon to Rs 14.6 lakh crore or 7.6 per cent of GDP in FY21 as economic disruptions are set for a long haul due to Covid-19 pandemic, brokerages analysing the deficit numbers said. The Controller General of Accounts early this month said that the country's fiscal deficit has expanded to 103.1 per cent of Budget Estimate in the April-July period primarily due to lower tax collection and higher expenditure for Covid-19 relief. The signals are clear indicators that the fiscal deficit would break all previous records to jump to over double the budget targets in FY21.

According to an EcoScope report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services, the higher 7.6 per cent fiscal deficit this year would be on account of an 18 per cent YoY contraction in total receipts and eight per cent growth in total spending.

During an emergency economic situation, it is always the



CAG early this month said that the country's fiscal deficit expanded to 103.1% of Budget Estimate in the April-July period primarily due to lower tax collection

increased government spending that helps to prop up the investment climate and boost demand in the economy. But worrisome aspect this year during the pandemic is that the government spending is expected to be highly skewed towards revenue (or current) spending this year with economic boosters capital expenditure on a decline.

The brokerage report showed that while revenue spending (largely to pay salary and pension bills) of the government could grow at 10 per cent in FY21, capital spending could decline by 2-3 per cent. If this trend continues, capital spending could suffer further

and decline five per cent YoY in the remaining eight months of FY21 (v/s 3.9 per cent growth over April-July'20). On the other hand, revenue spending would grow eight per cent over the August'20-March'21 period (v/s 12.2 per cent growth over April-July'20).

The brokerage expects real GDP to contract seven per cent YoY in 2QFY21, worse than the earlier forecast of (-) 4.7 per cent, but certainly better than the growing consensus of another double-digit decline in real GDP. Consequently, the real GDP could decline to (-) 6.5 per cent YoY for the full-year FY21, marking the worst fall in the past seven decades.



Ind-Ra downgrades banking outlook

Mumbai: India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) on Friday revised outlook on the banking sector from 'stable' to 'negative' for the second half commencing October 2020 (H2FY21) on an expected spike in stressed assets and higher credit costs. Banking sector may show weaker earnings on account of interest reversals and lower fee income.

The growth prospects are muted in the wake of the measures taken to contain the spread of Covid-19. Additionally, capital buffers for most public sector banks (PSBs) remain modest.

As per Ind-Ra's bear case, the spike in stressed assets due to pandemic is expected to double the credit costs for banking system than estimated pre-Covid-19 levels for FY21. It revised outlook on PSBs from stable to negative. Their modest capital buffers are expected to deplete further in FY21, due to provisioning requirements.

Kia Motors rolls out Sonet SUV in India

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: South Korean auto major Kia Motors on Friday launched its compact SUV Sonet in India, priced between Rs 6.71 lakh and Rs 11.99 lakh (ex-showroom). This launch marks its entry into the highly competitive compact SUV segment.

The sub-four metre model, which is manufactured at the car-maker's plant in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, comes in both petrol and diesel engine options and will compete with the likes of Hyundai Venue, Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza and Ford Ecosport, among others.

In total, Kia Motors India said, the Sonet will be available across 17 variants, including two petrol engines, two diesel engines (WGT and VGT configurations), five transmissions and two trim levels -- Tech Line and GT-Line.

The petrol variant will have a 1-litre GDI delivering power of 120 PS and another 1.2-litre G1 engine with power of 83 PS, available at a price range of Rs 6.71 lakh to Rs 11.99 lakh. The diesel option is powered by a 1.5 litre CRDi engine and is tagged at a price range of Rs 8.05 lakh to Rs 11.99 lakh (all prices ex-showroom). Kia Motors India



Priced from ₹6.71 lakh, the SUV will be available in 17 variants

Managing Director and CEO Kookhyun Shim said Sonet, the company's "latest made-in-India car for the world", has already received enthusiastic response from Indian buyers since opening of its bookings on August 20. "The aggressive pricing has been arrived at to bring delight and offer incredible value to the young and the young-at-heart customer of the Sonet. As our endeavour has been to ensure there is a Sonet for virtually all customers in this category, it is being offered with the widest choice in this segment," he added.

"The launch of the Sonet in India, as we emerge from these trying times, is the result of incredible resilience and hard work of Kia's Indian and global teams, even during the Covid-19 pandemic," Shim said.

Heritage unveils immunity boosting milk variants

Hyderabad: In an attempt to boost the immunity of consumers, Heritage Foods has launched ginger, tulsi and turmeric variants of milk. Ginger milk is good for thermoregulatory, thrombotic, and respiratory functions of the body while tulsi milk boosts immunity during seasonal changes. Turmeric milk has got good antimicrobial property against a wide spectrum of diseases.

Brahmani Nara, Executive Director, Heritage Foods, said, "We are excited to launch healthy products, which helps in building immunity. Pandemic has really



fuelled innovation across the world. Heritage Foods is always at the forefront of consumer's health and happiness, which can only be achieved by bringing innovative products at the right time. Heritage Foods understands the needs of consumers and have been at the forefront to bring many value added healthy products to consumers"

Financial stocks drag mkts down

Sensex ends 134 points lower, Nifty finishes at 11,505

Mumbai: Domestic equity benchmark Sensex ended 134 points lower on Friday, dragged by losses in financial stocks amid mixed global cues.

After swinging 564.69 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index settled 134.03 points or 0.34 per cent lower at 38,845.82.

The NSE Nifty fell 11.15 points or 0.10 per cent to finish at 11,504.95. HDFC Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 2 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Titan, SBI, HUL, HDFC and Tata Steel. On



the other hand, Bharti Airtel, M&M, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma and PowerGrid were among the gainers.

According to traders, despite a positive start, domestic stocks ended on a negative note tracking weakness in financial stocks

and foreign fund outflows. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 249.82 crore on a net basis on Thursday, exchange data showed. Meanwhile, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with gains, while most stock exchanges in Europe were trading with a negative bias.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.39 per cent higher at \$43.47 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee strengthened by 21 paise to close at 73.45 against the US dollar.

Online retail sales to hit \$2.5 trillion

New Delhi: Riding on the surge in grocery demand in the Covid-19 times, online retail sales in Asia will grow from \$1.5 trillion in 2019 to \$2.5 trillion in 2024, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.3 per cent, a new Forrester report said on Friday.

Due to the pandemic, adoption of online grocery is getting a boost, with an expected CAGR growth of 30 per cent during the forecast period and online penetration doubling from 5.1 per cent in 2020 to 10.6 per cent in 2024.

REAL CORNER

Demand for integrated townships on the rise

As housing preferences are likely to change post the pandemic and people move towards peripheries of cities, demand for integrated townships will increase in times to come, according to Anuj Puri, Chairman of Anarock Property Consultants. "Going forward, dispersed offices and flexible workplace policies around WFH will spur housing demand on city peripheries, beyond the city-centre hotspots. This will lead to higher demand for large township developments which, because of their massive size, have been developed on the peripheries," Puri said.

However, he noted that integrated townships account for a mere 2 per cent of all housing supply since 2010, so their numbers are currently inadequate to meet the coming demand.

According to data from Anarock, the top seven cities have just 101 integrated township projects, launched since 2010 till date, with



Hyderabad has nine township projects, of which only 1 is mixed-use and 8 are purely residential. Together, they have more than 21,600 units

3.16 lakh housing units. Of this total, 57 projects are largely residential with basic facilities like a small retail shop, pharmacy among others and the remaining 44 are mixed-use developments with dedicated retail, entertainment, education, commercial, health and residential spaces.

The National Capital Region (NCR) has maximum integrated townships, at 42 projects with around 1.33 lakh units, followed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) with 17 projects having 63,500 housing units. Hyderabad has nine township projects, of which only 1 is mixed-use and 8 are purely residential. Together, they have more than 21,600 units. Bangalore has 10 mega township projects with 35,230 units in all, of which 3 are mixed-use and the remaining 7 are large, well-equipped residential communities. According to Anarock Property Consultants, during a pandemic like Covid-19, there is a strong rationale for living in integrated townships.

"These self-sustaining, compact urban ecosystems are now more than just lifestyle upgrades - they provide the kind of controlled environment that makes a big difference during such an outbreak," it said in a report.

Liquidity-starved realty cos face huge funding gap

Experts say banks have become more risk averse, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic

Even as the K V Kamath committee has recommended restructuring of loans, several liquidity-starved real estate developers that do not qualify under the criteria stare a huge funding gap in the current financial year, according to experts. Moreover, banks have become more risk averse, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in small-to-mid-sized developers facing a sharp 200 per cent rise in funding gap this fiscal.

Along with the government, the Reserve Bank of India has been taking various initiatives to pump in liquidity into the system by reducing repo rates as well as easing cash reserve ratio (CRR) requirement of commercial banks.

"The already languishing residential real estate demand is expected to plunge 50-70 per cent year-on-year in the current fiscal, with the Covid-19 pandemic crushing economic activity and with it, big-ticket spending," ratings agency Crisil said.

It added that as a result, the credit profiles of small-to-mid-sized and leveraged developers will be impacted than larger, experienced developers with healthy balance sheets. According to experts, the pooling of CRR was expected to infuse nearly Rs 80,000 crore into the sector but the funds have not yet flown into the system.

"The CRR pooling has increased



The sector players are grappling with liquidity and we expected the OTR (one-time restructuring) would provide the relief. The sector needs immediate liquidity to come out of the crisis

- Satish Magar, national president, Credai

the potential for lending to the sector by almost Rs 80,000 crore but that money has not flown to the sector," said Nisus Finance, Managing Director and CEO, Amit Goenka. He added that though the banks reduced the cost for home loans but they have not passed it on for commercial loan rates.

Goenka further said that with the availability of the liquidity, banks are willing to lend but they are not ready to bring down the cost because the risk weightage is still high. He said the lending rates that were 8.5 per cent have now increased to 9-10 per cent, while the construction finance, which was earlier available at 10.5 per cent, has now increased to 11-11.5 per cent.

According to Crisil, the situation is bleaker for more than 100 small developers and single-project special purpose vehicles. "Small-to-mid-sized developers will face a

sharp 200 per cent rise in funding gap this fiscal. But, their ability to borrow or raise capital is limited as debt-to-total assets ratio is significantly high at 75 per cent as of March 2020. Interest cover is also weak at 1.2-1.5 times versus 2 times for the large developer groups," it said. Recently, the Kamath panel recommended financial ratios for 26 sectors that could be factored in by lending institutions while finalising a resolution plan for a borrower. "A one-time restructuring of debt obligations can provide considerable support for such stressed projects," Ica said.

It added that deferment of obligations or additional funding to meet the cash gap, with a favourable repayment structure spread over two years, would provide the required liquidity to enable project completion. Many companies have availed moratorium to

bringing down debt repayments, which, coupled with automatic reduction in collection-linked prepayments, has provided some support in terms of debt coverage levels. However, developers with a high proportion of slow-moving or stalled projects with significant impending debt repayments are likely to continue facing cash gap issues.

JLL India Country Head and CEO Ramesh Nair said banks are not lending to the sector as they have become more risk averse.

"There is a massive mismatch in what the sector needs. While certain announcements are made, the banks are not acting upon it, as they have their own problems. They have different risk perceptions. They also want to make profits. Therefore, if the real estate industry has to revive, the government needs to immediately pump in liquidity into the sector," he added.

Echoing similar views, Credai national president Satish Magar said the sector, which has crippled badly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, needs immediate liquidity to come out of the crisis. "The demand has fallen and so have the sales over the past few years. The Covid-19 pandemic has only worsened the situation. The sector players are grappling with liquidity and we expected the OTR (one-time restructuring) would provide the relief," he added.

PE inflows into realty fall 85% in Aug

With investors are adopting a cautious approach towards the Indian real estate in the wake of Covid-19 crisis, the overall private equity inflows into the sector stood at Rs 6,500 crore through August 2020, which is just 15 per cent of the corresponding period in 2019, a report by Colliers Inter-

national has said. The report by Colliers International titled Future India: Captivating Strategic and Private Equity Investments was launched on September 17 at the FICCI 14th Annual Summit.

Newer asset classes such as data centres and rental housing gained prominence among in-

vestors. During 2020 through August, the leading segments have been data centres, driven by demand for cloud infrastructure, as well as offices as they tend to offer steady rental income. Robust domestic consumption also maintained investors' confidence in industrial and logistics assets.

TEACHERS-GRADUATES COUNCIL SEATS

BJP begins groundwork for polls

• Prof K Nageshwar reportedly sought TRS support to contest Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy and Nalgonda constituency

VRC PHANIHARAN

Hyderabad: The State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party is all set to field its candidates to the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy and Mahbubnagar, and the Nalgonda-Khammam and Warangal graduate constituencies.

According to party sources, the decision was taken at a meeting held recently under the leadership of State party chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The party has decided to field its sitting MLC N Ramchander Rao from Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy and Mahbubnagar graduates' constituency.

Speaking to The Hans India, a senior party leader said that four candidates were in the fray for the Nalgonda-Khammam and Warangal graduate constituency. The party would decide before the election notification, which is expected in the last week of October.

However, the party has already made preparation of collecting the data of graduate voters from both the constituencies. The voters' list of the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy and Mahbubnagar graduates' constituency has been already in the final stages and going for printing. Formal meetings with the voters have already begun. The saffron party hopes that it will get the support from the voters.

"The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi has literally done nothing to address the problems related to the educated unemployed. Besides, there is a widespread discontent among the graduate voters that the State government has failed to address the issue faced by the State universities," a leader from the party said.

However, at the party meeting, it was decided not to leave anything to chance, he said, because the ruling party had not earlier fielded its candidates for the teachers and graduates' constituencies in Karimnagar and instead threw its weight behind the independent candidates.

Similarly, the ruling TRS might repeat the same in the case of Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy and Mahbubnagar graduate constituency,

the BJP sources said.

The saffron party sees such a possibility following a former Osmania University academician and MLC Prof K Nageshwar, who reportedly sought the support of the ruling TRS to contest as an independent candidate from the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy and Mahbubnagar graduates' constituency.

Names of Greater Hyderabad Mayor Dr Bonthu Rammohan and others are doing rounds as the possible TRS candidates. However, the TRS has not yet considered the request reportedly made by Prof K Nageshwar. "To our knowledge, it is very much on the ruling party's table. So, we don't want to take any chance," said a senior BJP leader.

It may be mentioned here that Prof Nageshwar is known for his left leanings. However, unlike the Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) chief Prof K Kodandaram, he maintains cordial relations with the political leaders of all shades and colours, including the Congress leaders and the Telugu Desam national president N Chandrababu Naidu.

Earlier, he was reportedly invited by TRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

to contest on the party ticket when his term was about to end. However, the former OU academician had politely declined the same sensing that the ruling party might pit him against Prof Kodandaram, who had fallen from the good books of the TRS chief.

This time, Prof Nageshwar, who is aspiring to stage a comeback into the State Legislative Council, has reportedly sought the help of TRS.

Against this backdrop, the BJP has started the groundwork and wants to ensure that its voter base among the graduate voters is not divided.

Meanwhile, Prof Kodandaram who has been trying hard to take head on with the TRS chief on the floor of the legislature for the last six years - holding parleys, with graduate and teachers' union in Warangal and Khammam districts.

He reportedly got the support from Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy and seeking the support from the left parties from Nalgonda district to contest as an independent candidate from the Nalgonda-Khammam and Warangal graduates' constituency.

State BJP welcomes Centre's agriculture reforms bills

BJP Telangana State chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao hopes farmers understand that new reforms have come up for their freedom from exploitation

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: BJP Telangana State chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao said that his party welcomes the three agriculture sector bills passed in Lok Sabha.

In a statement on Friday, he said that the BJP State unit congratulates Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the path-breaking reforms in Agriculture sector. He said that his party considers these reforms as historic and are in dire need since independence. The Centre has courageously initiated the reforms, he added.

Rao also said that the Centre's grand goal of making farmers prosperous and agriculture - a viable occupation for even the small landholding farmers will be realised through these new laws.

Achieving industry status for the agriculture sector and bringing massive private investments into the full spectrum of farm sector activities will transform the lives of small and poor



farmers, he asserted.

The landmark reforms will ensure multi-fold profitability, lowered risk for small farmers and increase the commercial value for their produce. Farmers will be able to sell their produce at competitive prices and earn alternate income as middlemen, he added.

He further said that the Congress and left parties are staging protests across the nation by misleading and confusing the farmers regarding the reforms initiated by the Modi govern-

ment. Congress has kept farmers disempowered and exploited them for decades, he alleged stating that it has not taken any initiatives to empower farmers in over five decades of alleged misgovernance.

Stating that the Congress and its regional allies have promoted middlemen and ensured that farmer community stays unorganised to suit their political agenda, he said, "It is a shame that these parties are trying to lead agitations against courageous farmer empowerment reforms initiated by the Modi government," Rao said.

Rao also hoped that the farmers understand that the new reforms are for their own prosperity and freedom from exploitation, both by middlemen and the markets.

He later claimed that the new laws will unleash the potential of the agriculture sector, create sustainable and robust infrastructure, create more jobs, increase productivity, and in turn benefit the poor farmers.

SHARING GRIEF



Telangana Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice G Chandraiah with Chinna Jeeyar Swamy who lost his mother recently at Sitanagaram Ashram in Muchintal on Friday

GO 111 excludes 84 villages from LRS

SRINIVAS GUDUPALLI

Ranga Reddy: In 1996, the State government through GO 111 prohibited establishment of industries and other such structures within 10 kilometres of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar tanks. The GO 111 rules prohibit hotels and residential structures from being constructed near the 84 listed villages in the six mandals - Shamshabad, Moinabad, Shabad, Shankarpalli, Rajendranagar and Chevella.

The government order (GO-111) was passed to protect the catchment area of Gandipet and Himayat Sagar reservoirs.

During the last assembly election campaign CM KCR promised the public that he will cancel GO 111 after TRS comes in power but, he has not fulfilled his promise given to the public. Moreover, the government has introduced the LRS scheme and made it mandatory to regularise the plots and layouts. But, the LRS scheme is not applicable to the 84 villages which are under the jurisdiction of GO 111. The layouts in 84 villages are illegal. They have been set up without permission of the government. So, the people who have purchased the plots in those areas are facing problems. They are neither able to regularise the plots nor get back the money they have invested in those plots. But the political leaders and busi-

nessmen who have purchased hundreds of acres of land are not facing any problem.

Shamshabad has a good scope but, no development," says who invested in Shamshabad when the airport was planned but, plans to gain out of the investment has flopped. The Shamshabad airport itself is a violation of the GO 111 rule. Several IT parks, engineering colleges, farmhouses have come up in violation of this rule. It was reported in 2016 that 12,500 structures violated the rules.

In March 2017, the State government planned to lift the prohibition on construction activities in and around Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar lakes in an effort to support real estate and recreation development in the region that comprises 84 villages.

In June 2019, there was speculation that the GO 111 could be lifted or eased by the government. As a result, Shankarpalli, Shamshabad, Gandipet, Qutbullapur, Ibrahimpatnam, Maheshwaram, and Shadnagar registered the highest real estate growth in those localities and in September 2019, it was found that despite GO 111 in force, there are more than 13,000 illegal constructions that are in the catchment area. The majority of illegal buildings have come up in Moinabad, Nagireddyguda, Shamshabad villages, Chinna-

mangalam, Chevella, and Aziznagar. Challenging these illegal constructions, some environmentalists had filed a petition with the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Hyderabad is no longer dependent on Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar for drinking water as authorities are laying pipelines to ensure water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers. However, the city still meets its partial water demand from their resources.

Residents and homebuyers have different points of view. Some argue that many villages are still backward because of these rules in place that forbid any investor attention. "Gandipet, Shankarpalli, Maheshwaram, Shamshabad and Qutbullapur are among areas that saw increased interest in real estate and transactions expecting development," says the public.

It is known that the registrations of plots and layouts have been stopped across the State. The Telangana government has introduced LRS scheme and made it mandatory to regularise plots and layouts. This scheme has become a burden to the common people. The people who have purchased acres of land are not facing any problem but, the common people who have purchased just some yards of land have to pay huge amount for regularising the plots and layouts.

2 held for selling foreign cigarettes

Hyderabad: The south zone task force along with Chandrayangutta police on Friday arrested two persons for selling foreign brand cigarettes illegally and seized 30 boxes of cigarettes worth Rs 15 lakh from their possession. The accused were identified as Syed Ilyas and Md Sameer. According to the police, the accused persons were working with one Aslam (absconding) wherein Aslam would instruct the two accused to travel to Delhi for purchasing foreign cigarettes and also would instruct them to distribute it to the local pan shops and kirana store owners in Hyderabad. Upon receiving instructions from Aslam, both the accused acted accordingly and were selling the illegal cigarettes in city. However, after receiving a tip-off about their activities, the task force nabbed them and handed over to the Chandrayangutta police.

Man gets lifer for killing air hostess wife

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: A local court in LB Nagar on Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife who was an air hostess suspecting her fidelity. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on him.

Reetu Sareen (29), was an air hostess in Jet Airways. She was married to the accused person Sachin Uppal in November 2013. In April 2015, Sachin came home drunk and started abusing his wife. Meanwhile, when Reetu was watching TV, he demanded the remote, but she objected for changing the TV chan-

nel. As he felt offended with her words, he started beating her due to which she fell on the floor and sustained a head injury and died. The accused then tried to hide the evidence.

However, Reetu's mother filed a police complaint alleging that Sachin was continuously harassing her daughter for dowry and it was Sachin who killed her daughter. She also named Sachin's mother and his friend Rakesh in the complaint. Based on the complaint filed by the mother, the police registered a case against the accused and took up the investigation. While investigating it was revealed

that Sachin who had an electronics shop in Koti incurred huge losses and in order to recover from the losses, he started demanding more dowries from his wife. But, she denied his requests and kept on with her life as usual. When a son was born to the couple in 2014, the accused alleged that it was not his son and demanded a DNA test because he suspected his wife's infidelity.

However, the final verdict came on Friday and Sachin was found guilty of the crime and was sentenced to life imprisonment and the others named in the complaint were acquitted.

Noida man arrested for committing burglaries

Cyberabad police issue an advisory urging people to use strong steel locks on their doors, install CCTV cameras in their houses and surroundings

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Special Operations Team (SOT) of Balanagar police on Friday arrested a 30-year-old man from who committed robberies at several houses in the Alwal and Keesara area. The accused was identified as Giri Gangadhar, a native of Noida, New Delhi and recovered 40 tolas of gold and 1 kg of silver from his possession.

According to the police, the accused is a notorious burglar who used to visit Alwal and surround-

ing areas with the intention to commit burglaries. He mainly targeted locked homes in lonely streets and colonies and after broke into the houses using rod and other equipment and committed the offence. Later, he travelled to Delhi to avoid suspicion and would spend the amount on his lavish lifestyle.

The Cyberabad police issued an advisory urging people to use strong steel locks on their doors, install CCTV cameras in their houses and surroundings, and keep jewellery and valuables in a locker. "When going out of town, carry your valuables and ask your neighbours to keep a watch on your home," the advisory said. "Don't share your travel details with anyone, especially on social media, and don't allow strangers into your home," it added.

Kisan Congress leaders arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Several Kisan Congress leaders along with Mulugu MLA Seethakka were arrested when they attempt to lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan on Friday. The leaders including, State Committee President, S Anvesh Reddy were picked up by the police.

Speaking to media while forcefully being pushed inside the police vehicle, Seethakka said that the government which was not ready to pay heed to farmer's distress in the Assembly was not even allowing peaceful protests. Complaining the forced removal from the spot, some of the leaders also alleged high-handed behavior of the police causing injuries to a few leaders.

Plea filed to protect TTD property in Khammam

- **Petitioner alleges that the Telangana government has illegally occupied the property owned by the TTD since 1975**
- **Court directs the TTD to act fast, adjourns the case to October 1**

LEGAL NOTES



LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad: On Friday, a High Court Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy heard a public interest litigation filed by A Anjaiah, resident of Khanapur Haveli, Khammam seeking to direct the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to take steps to protect the valuable property of TTD Kalyana Mandapam, situated in Khammam town, which is in the possession of TTD since 1976 onwards.

Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy queried with the TTD counsel as to why it was not challenging the petition of the Khammam District Collector. Counsel for TTD B Rajeshwar Reddy informed the court that in the counter affidavit filed by TTD, it had specifically mentioned that TTD was in possession of the said property since 1975. Moreover, TTD was also planning to take legal action by approaching the endowment tribunal, he asserted.

However, Justice Bollam Vi-

jaysen Reddy slammed the TTD for acting at a snail's pace and for not challenging the proceedings even when the said land was allotted to develop Street Vendors Market. "TTD has taken almost more than a month to take a decision. You don't have any alternative to go ahead with the case. It is up to you. But the court has to go by the averments," Justice Bollam stated.

Meanwhile, the TTD counsel submitted that the State government has illegally, without any notice, forcefully took the TTD property which was in possession since 1975. The revenue authority was not supposed to act like this. The issue pertains to the sentiments of people, he averred.

The court observed that it was a property dispute and there was no public interest involved in the matter. If TTD itself was not interested in its property, how can you depend upon a devotee, the bench pointed out.

The court granting one-week time to TTD to challenge the proceedings, adjourned the case to October 1.

Ten doctors died of Covid in TS: IMA

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Ten doctors from Telangana and 42 from Andhra Pradesh have died while discharging Covid duties. According to IMA (Indian Medical Association), a total of 382 doctors have lost lives in India after being infected with coronavirus. This data was collated by IMA. After the Centre said that it has no data regarding

the deaths of doctors due to coronavirus in the country, this list was released by IMA.

Meanwhile, Telangana reported 2,159 cases pushing the total cases to 1.65 lakh. With nine deaths, the total deceased count crossed one thousand mark to remain at 1,005.

Of the 53,000 tests done so far, 23,361 are of primary contacts and 6,371 are of secondary contacts.

Reigning champs MI to take on runners-up CSK today

New Delhi (IANS): After months of uncertainty, the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to get underway on Saturday, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - a venue that many players are unfamiliar with.

It is only the second time that a full IPL tournament is being organised outside India, after the 2009 edition was held in South Africa due to general elections in India while the first half of the 2014 edition was held in the UAE, again due to the general elections.

After months of uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decided to stage the full tournament in the UAE, with Dubai, Abu

Like in previous editions, the Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians and MS Dhoni-captained CSK would enter the tournament as clear favourites. However, considering the unpredictability that the T20 format offers, the other six teams cannot be ruled out of contention -- a fact that both MI and CSK would appreciate.

The T20 format tends to make teams more equally balanced, with the element of luck also playing a major part in a team's fortune as the game has so many uncertainties that on a given day, the 'hand of god', so to speak, could play an important part.

Delhi Capitals, Kings XI Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) are yet to put their hands on

Team that will overcome testing conditions will triumph in 13th edition tourney

The heat and humidity in the emirates would certainly play a major role in the performances of individuals and teams. Also, in the absence of loud cheering and crowds behind the players, it would be really interesting to see how the players manage to motivate themselves while playing in front of empty stands, especially in the second half of the tournament when boredom sets in and the eagerness and enthusiasm would be on gradual ebb. RCB skipper Virat Kohli, one of the modern-day greats, has made it very clear that there would be no drop in intensity from his players and they would give their

Bumrah can fill Malinga's shoes for MI, feels Lee

New Delhi (IANS): Former Australia speedster Brett Lee feels Jasprit Bumrah can fill the shoes of Sri Lanka veteran Lasith Malinga for the Mumbai Indians in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on Saturday.

Malinga wanted to be with his family back home in Sri Lanka and thus opted out for this year's IPL. According to Lee, Bumrah is good with both old and the new ball and thus can ball at the death overs.

"I have always been a Bumrah fan ever since he burst into the scenes some years ago. He has got a different bowling action, he pushes the ball in and can swing the ball both ways," Lee said while speaking on Star Sports show Game Plan.

"He is good with the new ball but I like him with the old ball and that's why he can fill the shoes of Malinga and can bowl at death overs. He can bowl at 140kmph and zoom the ball in at the bats-

man's feet. He is bowling yorkers consistently and there are very less bowlers like that, so he can fill those shoes," he added.

The former Australia pacer further said that MS Dhoni-led side have a good chance to win the title considering they have a good spin attack which can come in handy across the three venues in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

"I have picked them to win and I think CSK have a good chance because of their spin attack.

"With (Mitchell) Santner, (Ravindra) Jadeja needs to step up and be the number one spinner and CSK have got great variety and none of the spinners are same, so they are at an advantage for the conditions in the UAE as the tournament progresses," he said.

Mumbai Indians will begin their title defence in the tournament opener against Chennai Super Kings at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.



Dhabi, and Sharjah being the venues. The competition will begin with a blockbuster clash between last year's winners Mumbai Indians and runners-up Chennai Super Kings at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

While fans will not be able to witness the tournament from inside the stadiums and cheer for their favourite teams due to Covid-19 related restrictions, the lucrative league is expected to be viewed by millions of people across the globe on the television and digital platforms. It is estimated that this tournament will grab more eyeballs than any previous IPL edition.

the IPL trophy and thus these teams would be eager to win their maiden title this year. The pitches at the three venues are expected to be batsmen friendly with a little assistance for the spinners. Thus, while one can expect high scoring matches with a plethora of fours and sixes in the initial games, as the tournament progresses, the matches may turn out to be low-scoring ones.

Fast bowlers are likely to get movement only initially when the ball is new but once it gets old, they would need to outsmart the batsmen through variations in length, speed and other such deceptions.

all on the field. "All of us have thought about playing in empty stadiums. Of course, it's going to be a strange feeling. But that feeling has changed a little bit till now after having gone through a lot of practice sessions and a couple of practice games with the teams as well," he said a few days ago.

"Crowd is a part of your journey when they are watching you. We have an opportunity to bring joy to so many other people and so from that point of view I can only say that our intensity level or passion won't drop because there are no crowds. There is a larger reason for why this

2020 SEASON SCHEDULE IPLT20.COM										
MATCH NO.	MATCH DAY	DAY	DATE	IST	LMT	VENUE	HOME	AWAY		
1	1	SAT	19-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	MUMBAI INDIANS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS		
2	2	SUN	20-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	DELHI CAPITALS	KINGS XI PUNJAB		
3	3	MON	21-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE		
4	4	TUE	22-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	SHARJAH	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS		
5	5	WED	23-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	MUMBAI INDIANS		
6	6	THU	24-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	KINGS XI PUNJAB	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE		
7	7	FRI	25-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	DELHI CAPITALS		
8	8	SAT	26-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD		
9	9	SUN	27-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	SHARJAH	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	KINGS XI PUNJAB		
10	10	MON	28-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	MUMBAI INDIANS		
11	11	TUE	29-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	DELHI CAPITALS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD		
12	12	WED	30-SEP-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS		
13	13	THU	1-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	KINGS XI PUNJAB	MUMBAI INDIANS		
14	14	FRI	2-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD		
15	15	SAT	3-OCT-20	3:30PM	2:00PM	ABU DHABI	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	RAJASTHAN ROYALS		
16	16	SUN	4-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	SHARJAH	DELHI CAPITALS	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS		
17	17	SUN	4-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	KINGS XI PUNJAB	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS		
18	18	SUN	4-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	DELHI CAPITALS		
19	19	MON	5-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	MUMBAI INDIANS	RAJASTHAN ROYALS		
20	20	TUE	6-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS		
21	21	WED	7-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	KINGS XI PUNJAB		
22	22	THU	8-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	SHARJAH	RAJASTHAN ROYALS	DELHI CAPITALS		
23	23	FRI	9-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	KINGS XI PUNJAB	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS		
24	24	SAT	10-OCT-20	3:30PM	2:00PM	DUBAI	CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE		
25	25	SAT	10-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	DUBAI	SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	RAJASTHAN ROYALS		
26	26	SUN	11-OCT-20	3:30PM	2:00PM	DUBAI	MUMBAI INDIANS	DELHI CAPITALS		
27	27	SUN	11-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	ABU DHABI	ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE	KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS		
28	28	MON	12-OCT-20	7:30PM	6:00PM	SHARJAH				

TOUR DE FRANCE Poland's Michal Kwiatkowski wins Stage 18

Paris (IANS): An emotional finish to Stage 18 in the Alps saw Poland's Michal Kwiatkowski and Richard Carapaz finish arm-in-arm to lead home an Ineos Grenadiers one-two with the Ecuadorian also securing the polka dot jersey on a day to remember for the British-based team at the ongoing Tour de France.

After days of trying to bounce back from the shock withdrawal of defending champion Egan Bernal, Ineos finally got their win as Kwiatkowski was gifted a maiden Grand Tour scalp by teammate Carapaz in La Roche-sur-Foron after the pair had put on a masterclass during a gruelling third and final day in the Alps.

Kwiatkowski and Carapaz were the last riders standing from a large breakaway which formed early on in the 175km stage from Meribel, with Tour debutant Carapaz on the front of the race for the third day running.

Two days after missing out at Villard-de-Lans, Carapaz gave up his opportunity of a stage win and instead settled for the polka dot jersey, which he snatched from Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar after a thrilling tussle with Switzerland's Marc Hirschi (Team Sunweb) over the day's five categorised climbs.

When Hirschi crashed on the descent of the Col des Saisses with 80km remaining, the pendulum swung in the favour of Carapaz, who led the race over the Col des Aravis and the Plateau des Glieres with teammate Kwiatkowski by his side.

The pair dropped Spain's Pello Bilbao (Bahrain-McLaren) on the decisive climb with 35km remaining before making light work of a testing two-kilometre gravel section while holding off the chase from a group of race favourites behind.

After cresting a final uncategorised climb with three minutes in the bank, the Ineos duo were able to soak up the atmosphere as they entered La Roche-sur-Falcon and wowing the crowds with a finish reminiscent of the great LeMond and Hinault finale on Alpe d'Huez in 1986.

Belgium's Wout van Aert won the sprint for third place and neutralised the battle for bonus seconds for his Jumbo-Visma teammate Primoz Roglic, who retained his 57-second lead over fellow Slovenian Pogacar (UAE-Team Emirates) in the general classification with two days left till Paris.



FIVB confirms cancellation of Volleyball Club World C'ships 2020

Lausanne (IANS): World volleyball governing body FIVB has cancelled the FIVB Volleyball Club World Championships 2020 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. "The FIVB has announced the cancellation of the FIVB Volleyball Club World Championships 2020 following the decision of the FIVB Board of Administration," FIVB said in a statement. "In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent uncertainty regarding travel and fan attendance, the FIVB has decided not to organise the 2020 edition of the event. "The FIVB is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of the global volleyball family and aims to launch an invitation to bid for the 2021 edition by the end of October 2020," it added. The 2019 edition of the FIVB men's and women's Volleyball Club World Championships were hosted by Brazil and China respectively, with Italian clubs Lube Civitanova and Imoco Volley claiming gold.

National Esports Championship to begin from September 25

New Delhi (IANS): Country's top gaming stars will be seen showcasing their skills at the 2020 National Esports Championship set to take place from September 25 to 27. In the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, the three-day event will be held completely online and the Esports athletes from all over the country will compete on video games like DOTA2, Tekken7 and PES 2020. Defending champion Delhi's Abhinav Tejan (Tekken7) and Mumbai's Moinuddin Amdani (PES), alongside other popular Esports gaming names across the country including Loveneet Dogra, Malay, Akshay Jagtap and Navaneetha, will be among the main attractions as the winner of each game will get chance to represent India at the International Esports Federation (IESF) organised 12th Esports World Championship which will take place in Eilat, Israel at the end of the year. The National Championship will be played in a double elimination format with the last date of registrations will be September 24 (PES) and September 25 (Tekken7 and DOTA2). The championship will be streamed live on Esports Federation of India (ESFI)'s Youtube and Facebook page.

FRENCH OPEN

Attendance of spectators reduced to 5K per day

Paris (IANS): The organisers of the Roland Garros 2020 have now been forced to reduce the number of spectators from 11,500 spectators per day to 5,000 per day due to a recent spike in Covid-19 cases in the country. "The evolving hygiene situation in the Paris area has prompted the Paris police department to limit the number of spectators who may enter the 12 hectares Roland Garros site on a daily basis to 5,000 during the tournament," the French Tennis Federation has said in a statement.

The FFT was initially aiming to host daily crowds of 5,000 at both the Philippe-Chatrier and Suzanne-Lenglen showcourts while 1,500 fans at the smaller Simonne-Mathieu court.

"The FFT is conscious of how disappointing this news will be for those who will not be able to come to the stadium due to the reduction in capacity," it added.

The French Open, which was originally scheduled to start in May but had to be moved back because of the outbreak of novel coronavirus, is slated to be played from September 27 to October 11.

Naomi Osaka pulls out

Paris (IANS): Recently crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka has pulled out of the upcoming French Open slated to begin from September 27.

Osaka, who last week claimed her third grand slam title in New York, is struggling with a hamstring injury.

"Unfortunately, I won't be able to play the French Open this year," the 22-year-old on Friday said in a statement on social media.

The world number three, who wore tape on her left hamstring as she came from a set down to beat Victoria Azarenka 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the summit clash at the Flushing Meadows, said the turnaround between tournaments was too tight for her to recover fully.

"My hamstring is still sore so I won't have time to prepare for the clay - these two tournaments came too close to each other for me this time. I wish the organisers and players all the best."

Osaka joins world number one and reigning champion Ashleigh Barty in pulling out of competition at the Roland Garros. Barty had confirmed that she will not participate at the clay court Grand Slam due to health concerns and a lack of preparation.

