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Digambar, a resident of Raini village, is also searching for his brother, hoping against hope that he is still alive. Along with him are scores of others, some from the area and some from other parts of the country. And the dog. Human and animal bonded in their grief. Their wait continues.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL

PRIYANKA
@PRIYANKACHOPRA

Movies are universal. How do you think they have the power to connect people? #GlobalMovieDay @TheAcademy

NEWS ROUNDUP

Adaa Khan: Doing a music video takes me to a different zone

Television actress Adaa Khan, who was recently in Rishikesh for the shoot of a new music video, says that working in a music video takes her to a different zone.

While the title of the music video is yet to be finalized, Adaa says, "Whenever I have done a music video, it's been a very fulfilling experience, for the time being, you actually get to a different zone."

The song is sung by 'Hud hud dabangg' fame singer Divya Kumar. The actress is very happy with the way the music video is coming along.

"This song has a beautiful story of a girl who gives up everything and searching for the love of her life which I can't reveal now. One should wait and watch the music video," shares the actress.



FASHIONISTA TO HEALTH ENTREPRENEUR

TEJAL SINHA

Prarna Arora was always interested in lifestyle and fashion and started a successful venture of custom-tailored dresses from the year 2001 to 2012. Due to her health problems, she had to give up with the existing venture and took a break to find what actually was her true purpose.

Vedic Vitals is a modern age Ayurvedic Company that follows the ideology of 'Prevention is better than cure'. The remedies by Vedic vitals are made from natural herbs which are safe to consume and do not leave any side effect on the human body.

Sharing about what inspired her to start Vedic vitals, Prarna shares, "I have seen many ups and downs in my life including the demise of my husband at the age of 46. This turned me towards the direction of providing basic healthcare to the nation and what pushed me even more and that was when I started facing health issues myself due to the real problems of India, Lack of sanitation and basic health. Today, consumption of tobacco, liquor, fast food and exposure to pollution is a common part of our daily life. This unhealthy lifestyle has further impacted our bodies and become the root cause of many health problems. I wished to do something which could prevent and help cure diseases and working in this direction I thought of a variety of products which could help prevent such lifestyle diseases."

For Prarna, Vedic Vitals was not a one-day game, a lot of hard work, sleepless nights and research of highly qualified doctors was required in the initial days. After working for almost 8 months, they launched Vedic Vitals in the COVID-19 era, which itself was a big challenge for an early day start-up.

The main concern was the movement of supply chain. India was in lockdown and deliveries of the products were also impacted to a great extent. But with time, things are getting normal and we are also constantly working on challenges and solving them.

She adds, "COVID-19 turned out to be a lesson for the whole world, and we are part of it. We began this venture during COVID therefore, we had an idea of the obstacles we might face and were as prepared for them as could be. Though, COVID did not only have a negative impact. The one good thing happened at this time was that people started thinking of their health. This also opened a window for Vedic Vitals to make a place in the healthcare industry."

According to her, Vedic Vitals is different from its competitors in more than one way. While most of their competitors focus on pre-existing conditions that their remedies cure, they believe in preventing these conditions from even coming into existence in the human body.

Our remedies not only prevent diseases from happening but also cleanse from within, ensuring release of all toxins. Tar Free is a scientific ayurvedic formulation backed with high quality herbs to detox your lungs from the tar accumulated by consumption of tobacco & pollution. It removes harmful toxins from lungs responsible for lung cancer, removes congestion in lungs & helps to breathe freely and improves stamina and allows you to perform physical work without breathlessness."

Vedic Vitals is a modern age Ayurvedic company that follows the ideology of 'Prevention is better than cure'



How to balance the well-being of employees and their strengths

Leadership is the key to set the right way of doing things in any organisation. It helps build a positive and healthy environment among the people we work with and gives a path to follow along in the future course of actions

ABHISHEK JOSHHI

Strength-based development can prove to be commendable because of several reasons. First, the approach itself works on positive psychology that encourages individuals to feel their strengths help the organisation grow.

Second- it breaks the awkward communication and inculcates an uplifting thought process that appreciates a person's ability and gives a sense of belongingness by their leaders.

It effortlessly makes an individual perceive themselves as adding value just by being themselves.

In a nutshell, the strength-based approach can bring benefits like:-

- Will boost productivity at the workplace instantly
- Build a culture of responsible employees
- Ownership would increase among individuals
- Overall business outcomes would increase

Role of a leader in implementing a strengths-based approach

Any piece of advice automatically puts in more weightage when it comes from an experienced or a seasoned person.

When considering the positive business outcomes for organisational culture, only a leader can contribute the most and drive changes within the employees or the mentees.

Believe it or not, Leadership is the key to set the right way of doing things in any organisation. It helps build a positive and healthy environment among the people we work with and gives a path to follow along in the future course of actions.

A leader can give insights into identifying our core strengths and working on refining them to



them. Because 90% of the time in our day-to-day behavior, we naturally tend to use them.

Step-2: Learn to apply your strengths on a daily basis

If you fail to use your strengths on a routine basis naturally, then it might impact you to bring in change. And that is where Strengths-based tools come to your assistance.

Step-3: Approach with what suits your natural instincts the best

As each individual has a personal way of making or dealing with change, they create their own strategies instead of prescribing anything.

Final words

Strengths seek importance—enough importance to keep it sustained and only proffer with time. So there should be no reason not to pay enough attention to it. It's time to extend our celebrations and enjoy the victories resulting from our strengths rather than worrying about the misery that arises from our weaknesses.

Become a successful super woman

Being a mompreneur (mom entrepreneur) is one of the most challenging jobs in the world. It requires balancing two very demanding roles: a mom and an entrepreneur.

Being a mompreneur might require more effort than being a career woman, but it gives you more flexibility and control over your schedule. As you can earn while taking care of your family, the fruits of your labor will be sweeter too.

Here are a few tips to be a successful mompreneur aka superwoman:

Focus on what you know and love

A smart business idea blended with something that you love and know is the best formula for a successful venture. It is easier to offer products or services that have provided solutions for you, based on your personal experience.

Many successful mompreneurs have started a business selling baby-related items, such as breastfeeding aids and baby care supplies. Apart from your expertise in that field, you get to interact with and help fellow moms and moms-to-be.

Good planning and time management skills

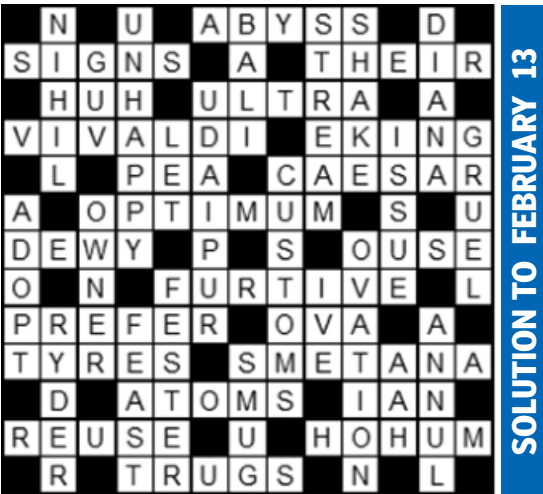
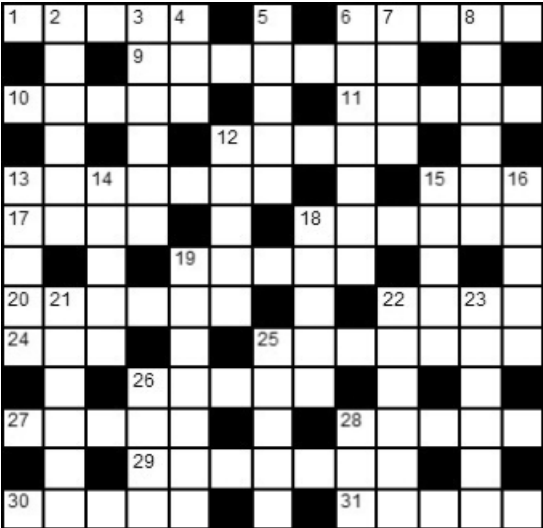
Being a mompreneur requires that you function at maximum efficiency, as you cannot afford wasted time and effort. Having a structured daily schedule will help you keep track of all your tasks and to allot your time based on the importance of each one. Be realistic when planning your day though. It is advisable to set aside a free one hour per day. That one hour will help you catch up on your lag and allow you some breathing space.

Allow time for yourself

No matter how busy you are, do not forget to find time for yourself. Do not feel guilty about taking a break once in a while- it will not make you a bad mom. On the contrary, having some "me" time to recharge, refresh and feel more beautiful will make you better as a mom and an entrepreneur. Take time to have a relaxing bath, to go out or to be pampered at the parlor or spa- you deserve it!

Support system

Even Superwoman needs a team to help her, or else, she will burn out. Your family is your number one source of support. If you have a team working with you, that will also help you divide the stress in your business. You might also want to connect with other mompreneurs or fellow moms. Keep in touch with your friends who have their own kids to share your experiences and concerns with. There are also many online mom groups or community parent organizations you can take part in.



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

Across

Down

1 Whip to a froth (5)

2 The paradise above earth (6)

3 Mark of infamy (6)

4 Frequency unit (3)

5 Regretting (5)

6 Capital of Tamil Nadu (7)

7 Siouan Indian (4)

8 Cocktail-bar order (3,3)

12 Become liable to (5)

13 Star in Cygnus (5)

14 Eagle's nest (5)

15 Singer Lopez (5)

16 Group of eight (5)

18 Needing to scratch (5)

19 Rainy season (7)

21 Wreck (6)

22 Esoteric (6)

23 Japanese car manufacturer (6)

25 Sadistic (5)

26 Encourage (4)

28 Damp or moist (3)

31 US state (5)

2 The paradise above earth (6)

3 Mark of infamy (6)

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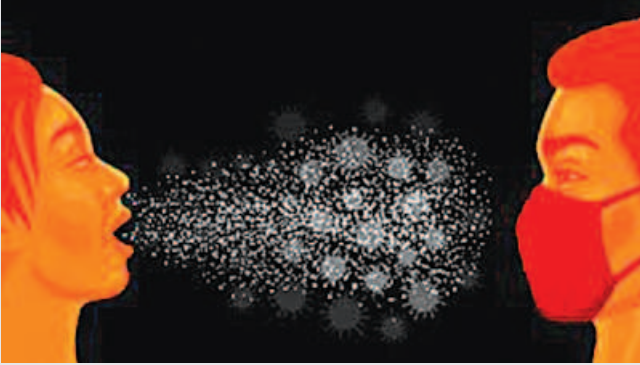
Common cold can't be termed as sign of coronavirus: AIIMS

SUMIT SAXENA
NEW DELHI

A while ago, a group of general physicians in the UK claimed that common cold symptoms should not be taken for granted, instead treated as a sign of coronavirus. But there is a divergent view, the President of AIIMS, Bhopal and Jammu, Y.K. Gupta told IANS that cough, fever and common cold cannot be 100 per cent termed as signs of coronavirus.

Reportedly, 140 east London general practitioners (GPs) and

health care professionals had written and signed an open letter to chief medical officer Chris Whitty and Susan Hopkins of Public Health England, claiming that patients usually experience typical symptoms of common cold like sore throat, a runny nose and headaches before testing positive for coronavirus. Gupta, who was former Dean (Academics), and ex-Head, Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS New Delhi, said: "Common cold cannot be 100 per cent sign of coronavirus. Most com-



mon cold viral infections are on decline, but that does not mean

that people should drop their guard. It is essential to wear

mask and maintain social distancing."

As the spurt of Covid cases begins to taper, Gupta cautioned though there has been a decline in the Covid cases recently, but this does not mean that danger is over. He stressed the factors contributing towards the decline in cases and deaths could be the ongoing vaccination drive and the intrinsic immunity of people in the country. "A large population has already been infected, which sub clinically may contribute to decline. The patho-

genicity of this is decreasing maybe", he said. On the aspect of increasing numbers in western countries and consistent decline in cases in India, Gupta indicated that this is perhaps due to a higher immunity of the Indian population towards the virus than western population, but there is not sufficient data to establish this.

People who got vaccinated after contracting Covid-19 have developed some health issues. Does it have a potential to become a lasting health problem? Gupta replied that it may be a

residual health problem and not vaccine residual side-effect, in fact after vaccination allergic reaction does not last for more than two days.

When queried, has he come across any safety issues associated with Covaxin in any particular age group, especially senior citizen, or people with comorbidities so far, Gupta said nothing so far, because data is not fully available and added that data regarding the Phase 3 trial of Covaxin may be available by March end, which would establish its efficacy.

Yogi to withdraw 2.5 lakh lockdown violation cases

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to withdraw nearly 2.5 lakh cases, lodged for violating lockdown rules following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

A state government spokesperson said common people and businessmen, who have been running around to police stations and courts over the cases, will now be given relief.

"The government will drop cases lodged under IPC section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant)," the spokesperson said.

Uttar Pradesh Law Minister Brijesh Pathak said cases lodged



for violation of Section 188 will be withdrawn automatically as also cases under Section 3 of Epidemic Diseases Act.

"People booked under cases during lockdown will not have to

submit any application. The process in this regard has started," said Pathak.

Recently, the state government had announced that it will withdraw cases lodged against traders

in the state during the lockdown.

"The state government feels that common people will suffer due to the cases lodged against them during the pandemic," added the spokesperson.

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to announce withdrawal of cases against traders and common people.

The spokesman said that after traders met Law Minister Pathak in January, apprising him of cases lodged against them for minor offences, including keeping establishments open beyond prescribed hours or opening shops for non-trade purposes during lockdown, they were asked to compile a list of such cases.

After failed rape bid, girl thrown off the terrace

PILIBHIT

A 16-year-old girl was allegedly thrown off a terrace after a failed rape attempt by two of her neighbours, police said on Sunday.

The two pushed the girl down when they saw her father enter the house, alleged the family.

The girl has suffered several fractures and internal injuries, said her father while lodging a complaint with the police in Jahanabad area.

Harish Vardhan Singh, Station House Officer (SHO), said the accused, identified as Arvind and Mahendra, have been booked under IPC section 354 (applying force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 504 (intentional insult) and 323 (causing hurt), besides provisions of the SC/ST Act and the POCSO Act.

The police have set up teams to arrest the two youths who are now absconding. The minor's father alleged that he found his daughter missing from her room. On searching, he discovered the mobile phone of the key accused, a 21-year-old youth who resides in the neighbourhood.

He went to the youth's house to enquire about the whereabouts of his daughter. He claimed he was just in time to prevent them from sexually assaulting his daughter.



At Delhi zoo, govt making all efforts to keep bird flu at bay

NEW DELHI

THE National Zoological Park in Delhi is fully vigilant to prevent any further spread of bird flu cases in the zoo located on Mathura Road near the Purana Qila.

The recent spate of Avian Flu outbreak has so far affected several states in India, including Delhi. The other affected state are — Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh. Going by the past instances of the disease outbreak in 2016, no leeway can be afforded this time around.

When contacted, the Director of the National Zoological Park, Ramesh Kumar Pandey, said that all standard operating pro-

cedures (SOPs) have been meticulously put in place after the first case was reported in India. Speaking to IANS, Pandey said, "Seven serological samples of droppings of birds collected from four different points in the zoo were sent for testing to the Bhopal-based National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) on February 3."

"Even the Sanjay Lake in East Delhi had reported a few positive cases of bird flu. But overall, there is no serious threat as of now, according to the officials."

"We are using disinfectants like sodium hypochlorite which is a very good oxidative disinfectant," Pandey told IANS.

The Delhi zoo has formed various teams to monitor the health of all the birds and animals in order to keep a check on the situation. Pandey also told IANS

that a strict surveillance protocol is being adhered to by the various teams formed to check and contain Avian Flu.

These teams are also ensuring that the enclosures of birds and animals are properly and regularly sanitised. The infection spreads primarily through nasal drops and respiratory track. "We are keeping an eye on both poultry and non-poultry birds in the zoo. Any bird which is unwell is immediately taken care of by the team," Pandey said.

In addition to this, authorities in the Delhi zoo are also spraying disinfectants like Virkon and lime powder twice a day to contain the spread of the viral influenza. Delhi zoo officials assuredly claimed that the health of captive and migratory birds in the zoo has been taken care of by the zoo authority.

Army personnel killed by unidentified men

PRAYAGRAJ

AN Army personnel, on a visit to his home, was attacked and killed by unidentified miscreants.

His body was found on Saturday with severe head injuries in his car from the Neem Sarai area here.

Police have registered an FIR against unidentified assailants and a woman, who was with the army man in his car at the time of the incident.

Police have detained the woman and are also looking into her allegation that she was gang-raped by the assailants.

Reports said the army havildar's blood-stained body was found by his family members on the information given by the woman.

They rushed him to the Military Hospital in Prayagraj, where the doctors declared him dead.

Superintendent of Police (City) Dinesh Kumar Singh said, "The 38-year-old victim, identified as Ashutosh Kumar Singh, was a resident of Mahendra Nagar under Dhumanganj police station. He was working



on the post of havildar in the Indian Army and was posted at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir. He had come home to leave a few weeks back and was set to return back soon."

His father Ashok Kumar Singh

informed the police that Ashutosh left home on Friday night on some errand. Later that night, Ashutosh's wife received a call on her mobile phone from a woman who informed her that Ashutosh was seriously injured and that his car was parked at a ground in Neem Sarai area. The family members soon rushed to the site and found him with severe injuries.

Police announce ₹1 lakh reward for info on Lakha Sidhana

NEW DELHI

WITH Delhi Police continuing with its investigations in the January 26 violence during the 'tractor march' in Delhi, it has announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of another key accused Lakshbir Singh alias Lakha Sidhana.

Delhi Police Crime Branch and Special Cell are conducting raids in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi-NCR in search of the gangster turned activist Sidhana, who has been in hiding since the violence on January 26. However, he has been posting videos on the social media.

Following the violence, Delhi Police had announced cash reward of Rs 1 lakh each for the arrest of Deep Sidhu, Jugraj Singh, Gurjot Singh and Gurjant Singh, and Rs 50,000 each for Jagbir Singh, Buta Singh, Sukhdev Singh and Ikbal Singh for their alleged involvement in the violence that saw at least one death and injuries to scores of persons, including policemen.



Police seize half-burnt bodies of couple from pyre

SANT KABIR NAGAR

POLICE have seized half-burnt bodies of a young couple who had died under mysterious circumstances in Mudadih village in Uttar Pradesh's Sant Kabir Nagar.

The couple, according to reports, had announced their marriage on Friday when the girl, Kanchan, reached Sagar's house and Sagar applied vermilion on her forehead. A day later, on Saturday, the couple reportedly died and their families were hurriedly cremating them on the banks of Kuano river when the police reached the spot and took away the half-burnt bodies from the funeral pyre. The family members of both fled when police reached.

Sant Kabir Nagar SP, Kaus-

tubh, said, "We got information that bodies of a couple were being burnt by family members. Our team reached the spot and seized the half-burnt bodies from the pyre. Villagers claimed the couple got married on Friday and consumed poison."

We have started investigation and are questioning villagers. We have sent the bodies for post-mortem." Sources said that the family members of Sagar and Kanchan strongly disapproved of their marriage and started assaulting them after they claimed to be married.

Local villagers said the couple consumed poison after their families opposed the marriage. The families did not inform police about the deaths.

Lucknow University students form blood donors' group

LUCKNOW

SIX students of B.A. (Hons) final year in Lucknow University (LU) have launched 'Mission Zindagi', an online blood donor group, to extend a helping hand to people facing medical emergency.

The students are creating online database of students, teachers and staff who are regular donors or are keen to donate and coordinate to make donors available to the needy.

Group coordinator, Devansh Krishna Srivastava, said: "We have created a link, 'Mission Zindagi', on the website where interested people may register themselves by providing their

details and suitable time for donation. A registered donor closest to the patient's location will be alerted for help."

"Any resident who requires blood may go to the Lucknow University website where contact numbers of 'Mission Zindagi' members are available. They can call our team and we will provide help at the earliest," he added. The biggest benefit of the initiative is that it would save time and help save lives.

"Students will receive calls and coordinate blood donation round the clock. More members from all undergraduate and postgraduate courses will be added later," he said.

Hundreds of artisans to showcase products at Hunar Haat

NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of Minority Affairs will organise the 26th edition of 'Hunar Haat' that will bring together indigenous artisans and craftsmen from across the country at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here from February 20 to March 1.

Its theme will be 'vocal for local' and more than 600 artisans and craftsmen, including a large number of woman artisans, from more than 31 states and UTs will participate in this, an official statement said.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the event on February 21. Minority Affairs



Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the event will be a perfect platform to promote indigenous

products of artisans and craftsmen from across the country, and asserted that this has pro-

vided employment opportunities to more than five lakh artisans, craftsmen and artists yet.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs will provide employment and employment opportunities to 7.50 lakh artisans and craftsmen through 75 hunar haats, which will be organised as the country celebrates its 75th years of Independence.

Naqvi said the hunar haat will also be available at virtual and online platform <http://hunarhaat.org> and on GeM Portal where the people of the country and abroad can buy products. It has also proved to be an effective platform to provide national and international market to artisans and craftsmen, he

said. Lakhs of people had visited a hunar haat organised at Mysuru in Karnataka from February 6-14. Naqvi said visitors will also enjoy traditional delicacies from every region of the country at the hunar haat in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Besides, the people will also enjoy different cultural and musical programmes to be presented by renowned artists of the country.

In the coming days, hunar haat will be organised at Goa, Bhopal, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Ranchi, Surat/Ahmedabad, Kochi, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Jammu-Kashmir and other places.

Spike in child marriages due to pandemic crisis

• NGOs, SHE Teams bring the social evil under control

• Parents in financial crisis married off their daughters

CHAITRA SIDDHARTH
HYDERABAD



PROMPTED by uncertainty during lockdown several parents married off their minors, but the situation is now brought under control. Thanks to the SHE Teams and the voluntary groups which jumped to stop the trend by the end of the 2020, following reports that scores of girls were being married off.

According to SHE Teams, the situation is closely being monitored and the police stopped two child marriages under the Cyberabad limits last month. The victims in recent cases were 16 and 15 years old and after verifying, the officials took the matter and stopped it. "Between (2016-2019), the city officially recorded no such cases. However, the rate of child marriages during pandemic (2020) enormously increased due to financial crisis in

few communities. Now the situation is under control," said Police official of SHE Teams.

Child rights activists in the city have also raised concerns over huge number of cases of child marriages during the pandemic, which were said to be over 200 during the year. There could be more such cases which went unreported.

"In one of the recent cases, the volunteers of NGOs Balala Hakkula Sangham and Aman Vedika rushed to the location along with SHE Teams and police to stop the marriage of 16-year-old girl who was about to be married off to a man who was 8 years

older to her. After witnessing and conversing with the victims of child marriages act, the activist from Aman Vedika, Shobha Naik, who focuses on women and children safety, said "one of the victims was forced to marry early as her parents weren't alive and had become a burden to her relatives."

In another case, Anitha (name changed), 15, the victim from Hyderabad, said, "I wanted to fulfil my dreams and keep studying and achieve good grades in my school. But unfortunately, I was told to marry a man who hasn't even seen me or known me before. All I knew that he was 37-

year-old and I realised all my dreams were being shattered".

NGOs reported that the marriages took place in districts Hyderabad, Nalgonda, Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Wanaparthy and other places, where the minors were being offered in marriage, as they felt they were burden.

Even the Global Girlhood Report (2020), warned of 2020 being a year of "irreversible setbacks and lost progress" for girls, predicting that 5 lakh more girls were at risk of being forced into child marriage this year alone and 1 million more expected to become pregnant.

Call to strive for securing women's rights

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana 'Rashtra Shramika Mahila Samanvaya' Committee affiliated to CITU on Sunday called for intensified struggles for securing rights of the members, inspired by the International Women's Day celebrations.

The call was given by committee convener S Rama at a meeting chaired by P Vijayalakshmi. She said the issues to be raised during the struggles would be increasing attacks, atrocities, murders, rapes on women, discrimination at work spots/wages and 33 per cent quota for women in legislatures.

The meeting resolved to celebrate the International Women's Day on March 8 at both district and State level. The focus would be on the struggles being conducted by labour organisations against the Narendra Modi government policies, besides that by farmers.

The meeting demanded recognition of women's work in houses (by making payment), equal wages for women, steps to check violence against women, regularisation of 'shramika' women, payment of minimum wages/pension.

The CITU State secretary Paladugu Bhaskar, committee co-convener Padmasri, committee leaders D Kalavati, P Kavita, Yadamma, N Sabita, Andalamma were among those who attended.



Still some greedy minds fancy treasure hunt

ART & CULTURAL HERITAGE ALREADY IN RUINS
FACING LOOTING & DESTRUCTION

M M FAROOQUI

THE Hyderabad and surrounding areas with their rich history and heritage are also well-known for valuable antiquities which lure treasure hunters to strike it rich. Despite knowing that it often ends up as a wild goose chase, men from city are losing their prime in their pursuit.

Hyderabad was ruled by several dynasties and even before the arrival of Qutub Shahis, the place was an important strategic location. Later Asaf Jahis and their history compel conjure up images of hidden treasures. The last Nizam VII Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur who was the richest person of his times stashed away his wealth somewhere, believe the treasure hunters, some of whom still rummage around at places like tombs, palaces, religious structures.

Folklore has it that the Charminar's Tunnel, which was constructed by Sultan Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah connects the icon of Hyderabad to Golconda Fort. If this tunnel is explored, a chest could be discovered, believe some treasure hunters. Likewise, they are also hopeful of finding something at Golconda Fort and King Koti palace (Nizam's residence). At King Koti palace, precious jewelry like diamonds, rubies, sapphires, pearls and gems are stored in steel trunks. It will be quite a quest to hunt the royal palace down, they feel.

According to those in the pursuit for years, they zero in on a place with some abnormal activity. The soil from the site will be taken to the sorcerer and he would confirm if the site has some assets and the hunt begins. "Last time we tried to hunt for treasure 3 years back in Shaheennagar area but failed. One in thousands will get the treasure. If one tries to explore, without following due procedure, the person would lose his life or he may turn mad," says one of the treasure hunters on condition of anonymity.

Historians have acknowledged that there were attempts by those who were after easy wealth. It has been observed that the people in search of antiques and historic treasure are also losing their lives and being



Digging up and plundering historical sites as myths persist about hidden royal treasures in Hyderabad and surrounding areas. Priceless heritage is becoming a victim of their pursuit. They know it's illegal and dangerous to go treasure hunting, but greed gets the better of them

caught the police, but still one can see the flicker of hope is on and so is the hunt. "People who are considered to have magical powers take the responsibility. They identify the site of treasure, but most of the time they fail to retrieve any wealth. Some also lose their lives and most of them usually turn eccentric," said Dr Samad Osmani, a historian. In search of treasure, the people will be digging deep pits and as a part of gift or a donation, they people also sacrifice goats or other animals. Several such incidents came to light in the past, he added. Human sacrifices are very rare, though.

Referring to the ancient books (not to be disclosed), he said "In those times, the royals used to protect their valuable assets by digging pits and place it inside and bury a person alive for safeguarding it. And whenever someone tries to get it, they would fail. It could be a fact or myth, but it's true that treasure hunt cost several people their lives," explained Dr Osmani.

While giving a reference to an incident, Dr Osmani said that in early 90's, at Purani Haveli of Old City a wall collapsed, in which a skeleton was found wearing huge jewelry with a box of assets. As soon as the nearby residents saw, they took jewelry before the police or other authorities came to the site. It was one of the famous incidents of the Old City on treasure in the recent decades," he mentions.

PANCHAYAT POLLS PHASE-2

82% voter turnout victory of democracy, says Naidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALAGIRI

TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday hailed it as a victory for democracy in villages of Andhra Pradesh as a higher voting percentage of 81.67 per cent was recorded in the 2nd phase of panchayat polls as against 81.66 percent in the first phase.

Naidu asserted that the rural people have fought back against the flagrant poll violations of the ruling YSRCP. The voters should display the same enthusiasm in the third and fourth phases in order to save their villages from slipping into the hands of the ruling party goondas and criminals, he said.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, the TDP chief said that in the just-concluded 2nd phase counting, their party has won 1,033 out of the total 2,778 panchayats, which came to 37.67 per cent.

- Urges voters to display the same enthusiasm in third and fourth phases to save villages from slipping into the hands of the ruling party goondas and criminals
- Claims that the TDP-backed candidates registered victory in 1,098 out of 2,778 panchayats in the second phase

Others have won 65 panchayats, which came to 2.37 per cent. Overall, the TDP supported candidates won 1,098 seats that came to 39.52 per cent. The TDP would have shown far better performance if the YSRCP and the official machinery did not commit poll irregularities.

Naidu asserted that the credit for creating public faith in democracy would go to the TDP only and the ruling party leaders including

Ministers, MPs and MLAs were rejected in their own native villages on a large-scale.

The SEC has ordered setting up of CCTV cameras or videography at all the counting centres. But, the District Collectors, Joint Collectors and the returning officers were not strictly following the SEC orders.

Stating that the YSRCP rowdism continued despite the SEC steps, Naidu said that the ruling party could win 108 panchayats unanimously in the Piler segment only by resorting to unchecked violations.

The YSRCP leaders have realised that they would have no political survival because of the rising unpopularity of their government. This was why they were violating all the laws in order to win the seats by any means whatsoever.

The TDP chief slammed the State Election Commission (SEC) for not using its powers to ensure a free and fair poll as per the orders of the High Court.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE National Platform for Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) which is celebrating completion of a decade on Sunday demanded the Union government to drop a proposal to wind up nine national-level educational institutions and run only in their place.

At the closing function of the week-long national celebrations in the State office here, NPRD president K Venkat and secretary M Advayya raised the demand.

They also wanted five per cent of the ensuing State budget allocated to the disabled.

In a press release, the two leaders criticised the Centre for cutting the budget allocation for disabled welfare by 12 per cent. 'This amounted to their neglect'. They called for united efforts and struggle to

secure the rights of the disabled.

Venkat and Advayya said the State-level week-long celebrations would be on from February 14 to 22. The closing function would be held on Feb 22 in the City.

They listed the NPRD demands as: dropping move to make changes in the Rehabilitation Act, increased pension from Rs.3016 to Rs.5,000, sanction of ration cards, subsidised loans, raised marriage incentive to Rs.1.25 lakh, five per cent allotment in 2 BHK houses, disabled certificates to 21 categories, reservations in the private sector, five per cent quota in welfare schemes, government jobs, besides allotment of house-sites.

Among those who attended the celebrations in the State office during the day were State committee member Mohd Nazia, Hyderabad committee vice-president Satyanarayana and leader Padma.

OPPOSING VSP PRIVATISATION

Botcha hints at govt passing resolution in Assembly

- Says soon a delegation of YSRCP MPs will meet PM Modi and urge him to withdraw the move of disinvestment of VSP
- The Minister says the results of panchayat polls indicate that people are happy with CM Jagan's governance

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

MINISTER for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana infused confidence among the agitators stating that if required a resolution will be passed in the next Assembly session against privatisation proposal of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP).

Speaking at a media confer-



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana speaking at a press conference in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. MP MVV Satyanarayana is also seen.

ence here on Sunday, Botcha Satyanarayana said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had already written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to allocate own captive mine for the plant and convert the interests paid by the steel plant into equity so that it could tide over the financial crisis.

The Minister mentioned that the YSRCP will extend all the support to the agitators who are

against privatisation of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). He also said a 14-member delegation of MPs had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and submitted a memorandum to withdraw the privatisation decision. He stated the MPs will meet the Prime Minister next.

Speaking on the results of the panchayat elections, Botcha wondered what went wrong with

the calculations made by the TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu.

Botcha said the results of panchayat polls indicated that people were satisfied with the YSRCP's rule. He said people of the State were in favour of Jagan Mohan Reddy as it's visible in the election results declared so far.

The Minister said YSRCP will further improve its winning percentage by another one or two per cent in the next two phases of polling. With the YSRCP emerging victorious in the gram panchayat elections, he said, the responsibility of the government has increased further. Elaborating about the forthcoming municipal elections, the Minister opined that the AP government is ready for it.

"We are ready to conduct polls and extend support to the SEC whenever the State Election Commission announces the date," he added.

Visakhapatnam MP MVV Satyanarayana, among others took part in the conference.

Contract, outsourced staff JAC demands pay hike

V PRADEEP KUMAR
TIRUPATI

THE Joint Action Committee (JAC) of AP contract and outsourcing employees has been demanding the State government for a hike in their salaries which were last increased six years ago.

The State chairman of the JAC K Suman recalled that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has assured on various occasions during the run-up for elections that the services of about 55,000 contract staff in the State will be regularised within six months of coming to power.

Speaking to *The Hans India* on the sidelines of the meeting of leaders of the association in Tirupati on Sunday, he said that they want the implementation of 11th PRC recommendations to all the contract workers as they have been doing more work at very low wages. These staff has been working for 12-18 hours per day and on many times were not allowed to avail their leaves though it is their right. He further said that as Opposition leader Jagan Mohan Reddy has announced that his government will bring in pay parity for all



Chairman of AP Contract and Outsourcing Employees JAC K Suman and other leaders releasing a poster during their meeting in Tirupati on Sunday

outsourced workers. But, even after Jagan Mohan Reddy assumed power, these employees were getting only the old salaries though the government set up APCOS (AP Corporation for Outsourcing).

Out of around 1.90 lakh outsourced employees, only 90,000 were registered in the APCOS and getting salaries directly from the government while the remaining are still working under private agencies. He said that the JAC has been asking to register all the remaining workers under APCOS. Further, all outsourced employees should be made contract employees.

The JAC has been seeking implementation of at least Rs 5 lakh worth accident insurance

and bank loans facility which the government employees are entitled to get. Since they were classified as government employees in the CFMS portal, they were denied any government schemes like Amma Vodi, house pattas etc., though they get only Rs 6000-8000 per month. The JAC wants to correct this and make the contract staff eligible for such schemes based on their actual incomes.

They have decided to represent their demands to the Chief Minister and other officials seeking immediate solutions. Leaders P Gurusath, A Suresh, Ramanjulu, Padmaja and others from various districts took part in the day long deliberations.

Ramchandani’s ‘One Rupee’ clinic treats the poor in Sambalpur

“I charge one rupee from the poor and underprivileged as I don’t want them to feel that they are availing the service free of cost”. Ramchandani's wife, Sikha Ramchandani, a dental surgeon, is also helping him

SAMBALPUR

A doctor in Odisha's Sambalpur district has opened a 'One Rupee' clinic to provide treatment to the poor and underprivileged people. Shankar Ramchandani an assistant professor in the department of medicine at Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla, has opened the clinic in Burla town where patients have to pay just one Rupee for treatment. Ramchandani said that the one Rupee fee clinic is part of his long standing desire to provide free treatment to the poor and underprivileged beyond duty hour.

"I joined VIMSAR as a senior resident and senior residents are not allowed to do private practice. Hence, I could not start the 'One-Rupee' clinic. But I

was promoted as assistant professor recently and as an assistant professor, I am allowed to do private practice after my duty hours and hence, I have started the clinic in a rented house now", said the 38-year-old doctor. Asked why he charges one Rupee, Ramchandani said "I charge one Rupee from the poor and underprivileged people as I don't want them to feel that they are availing the service free of cost. They should also think that they have paid some money for their treatment."

The clinic, which has been set up at the Kachha Market area in Burla town remain open from 7 am to 8 am in the morning and 6 pm to 7 pm in the evening. The 'One-Rupee' clinic has provided him with an opportunity to serve the



poor, destitute, unprivileged, elderly persons, physically challenged people and the people who do not have access to proper medical care. "I am a doctor of the masses and not the classes", he said. Ramchandani said hundreds of people regularly come to the OPD of VIMSAR and one can find a long queue of patients to consult doctors.

"I have seen elderly people and people with disabilities waiting for hours for consultation with doctors in OPD. They don't need to wait for hours and suffer at the hospital. They can come to my clinic and get consultation at Rupee 1 only," he added.

Ramchandani's wife, Sikha Ramchandani, a dental surgeon, is also helping him. The clinic

was inaugurated on Friday and 33 patients came to the clinic on the first day, he said.

Ramchandani, who had also hit the headlines when he took a leprosy patient carrying him in his arms and dropped him in his house in 2019, said, "my late father, Brahmanand Ramchandani had told me to set up a nursing home.

But a nursing home requires huge investment and it is not possible to provide treatment to poor people at Rupee 1 in a nursing home.

Hence, I decided to open this 'One-Rupee' clinic." Ramchandani had also drawn the attention of all and received widespread appreciation when he attended a COVID-19 patient beyond his duty hour and also carried the patient to VIMSAR in his car amid the scourge of novel coronavirus in October last year.

No CAA in Assam: Rahul

‘If Assam is divided, then Modi or CM will not be affected’
‘Corporates will grab ₹ 80 lakh crore agriculture business’

SIVASAGAR

ACCUSING the BJP and the RSS of "dividing" Assam, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said his party will protect every principle of the Assam Accord and will not let the Citizenship (Amendment) Act be implemented if voted to power in the upcoming assembly polls.

Sounding the Congress' poll bugle in the state, Gandhi attacked the Modi government repeatedly alleging that it was working with an approach of 'Hum do, Hamare do' -- a term he recently used while speaking in Lok Sabha to claim that the country is being run by only four people.

Gandhi hailed the contribution of former Assam Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Tarun Gogoi, who passed away recently, calling him Assam's soldier who united the state and spent his entire life protecting it. In an apparent reference to former principal secretary to the Prime Minister Nripendra Misra being awarded the Padma Bhushan, the Congress leader, without naming anyone, said that in the same award list which had Tarun Gogoi, there was also the "name of a bureaucrat from PMO and I felt sad that the government of India had insulted Tarun Gogoi and this state".

"If Assam is divided, then Prime Minister Narendra Modi or your Chief Minister (Sarbanand Sonowal) will not be affected, but the people of Assam and the rest of India will be harmed." Underlining the importance of the state, Gandhi said it



was a beautiful flower in India's bouquet. Gandhi claimed that the three new central farm laws will help corporates and rich people grab agribusiness worth Rs 80 lakh crore in India.

Withdrawal from Galwan, Pangong is surrender: Antony

Senior Congress leader and former defence minister A K Antony on Sunday alleged that disengagement in both the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso Lake areas and the creation of a buffer zone was a 'surrender' of India's rights.

He said that at a time when India was facing multiple challenges at the border and was facing a two-front war-like situation, the increase in defence budget this year is meagre and insignificant and was a 'betrayal' of the country.

Antony said he was sad that the Narendra Modi government was not giving proper priority to national security at a time when China was getting belligerent and Pakistan continued to promote terrorism.

He said disengagement was good as it reduced tension but it should not be done at the cost of national security.

"We are surrendering our rights," he alleged, noting that Galwan Valley as Indian territory was never a disputed land even in 1962. "Disengagement and buffer zone means surrender of our land at the moment," he alleged, while warning that the government is not understanding the importance of this disengagement and creation of the buffer zone.

GOA REVELRY



Revellers attend the annual Goa Carnival float parade, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in Panaji

Greta Thunberg toolkit case 5-day police custody for Disha

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Sunday sent a 21-year-old climate activist to five days police custody in connection with allegedly being involved in sharing a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest.

Disha Ravi, arrested by a Cyber Cell team of the Delhi Police from Bengaluru on Saturday, was produced before a court here and police sought her seven days' custody. The police said her custody was required to probe an alleged larger conspiracy

against the government of India and to ascertain her alleged role relating to the Khalistan movement. During the hearing, Ravi broke down inside the courtroom and told the judge that she had edited only two lines and that she wanted to support the farmers' protest. Duty Magistrate Dev Saroha allowed the Delhi Police to quiz Ravi for five days. While seeking her custody, the police told the court that the activist had allegedly edited the "toolkit" on February 3 and many other people are involved in the matter.

80 Shia orphans donate for Ram Temple

LUCKNOW

Over 80 orphans from the Saadatganj orphanage of the All India Shia Orphanage in Lucknow and people from the minority community donated more than Rs 1.5 lakh for the construction of the Ram temple.

The donations ranged from Rs 1,100 to Rs 10 and Rs 100.

Former chairman of Shia Waqf Board, Wasim Rizvi, said: "Such an initiative will send a message of unity to those who work to divide people in the name of religion."

RSS executive member, Indresh Kumar, said a new chapter of mutual harmony would be written with the construction of the Ram temple.

The Shri Ram Janambhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust is conducting a mass contact and fund-raising campaign from January 15 till February 27 for the construction of the grand temple in Ayodhya.

Shri Ram Janambhoomi Teerth Kshetra Secretary Champat Rai was quoted as saying: "The accounts of the trust in three nationalized banks show an amount of over Rs 1,000 crore.

Second Pulwama anniversary Omar, Farooq locked up at home

SRINAGAR

After former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah claimed on Sunday that he and his father Farooq Abdullah have been "locked" up at their residence without any explanation by authorities, J&K Police maintained that VIP protectees were advised against moving out in view of "adverse inputs". Omar posted on Twitter photos of security vehicles stationed outside his residence on the Gupkar Road and said that his sister and her children, who live next doors, have been locked up as well. "This is the 'naya/new J&K' after August 2019. We get locked up in our homes with no explanation. It's bad enough they've locked my father (a sitting MP) and me in our home; they've locked my sister and her kids in their home as well," Omar tweeted.

"Chalo, your new model of democracy means that we are kept in our homes without explanation. But on top of that, the staff at the house aren't also not being allowed in and then you are surprised that I'm still angry and bitter."

The police claimed that due to adverse intelligence inputs, the movement of protected persons had been discouraged and all concerned were informed well in advance not to plan their tours on Sunday.

Omar asked the police to share the written communication sent to him and acknowledged by him that called for restricting his movement on the second anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack of 2019.



People light candles to pay tribute to the martyrs of Pulwama attack in Patna on Sunday

7 kg IED recovered

JAMMU: A major tragedy was averted after police recovered a seven-kilogram Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from the Jammu bus stand on Sunday, officials said.

With this recovery, the police foiled a major plan of the terrorists to set off an explosion on the second anniversary of the 2019 Pulwama attack.

As there were inputs that the terrorists would carry out terror attacks, adequate security measures were taken by the security forces. "It was a huge IED," a senior police official said.

The bus stand is a crowded place in Jammu city thronged by hundreds of people daily.

PM, Vice Prez pay tributes

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in paying tributes to the CRPF jawans killed in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, while the paramilitary force remembered the bravehearts, saying the country "did not forgive" and "will not forget" their supreme sacrifice. On February 14, 2019, 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed in the attack by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Pulwama. Soon after the attack, the Indian Air Force carried out an airstrike in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26 targeting terrorist camps. The CRPF held a wreath laying ceremony at its camp in Lethpora in Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP lost right to rule: Punjab CM on figures of farmers' deaths

CHANDIGARH

PUNJAB Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday expressed shock over the recent statements of senior BJP leaders, including the Union and Haryana Agriculture Ministers, on the deaths of protesting farmers, saying the party had lost the moral and ethical right to continue to rule at the Centre and in the state.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government at the Centre should step down in the interest of the nation, as should the Manohar Lal Khattar government in Haryana, he said, slamming Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar's and state Agriculture Minister J.P. Dalal's statements on the deaths of farmers protesting against the farm laws at the borders of the national capital for more than two months now.

Punjab alone has paid compensation to families of 102 farmers who have died in these protests, said the Chief Minister, lashing out at Tomar over his "outrageous statement" citing Delhi Police information that only two farmers have died and one has committed suicide.

Even the media has released details of more than 200 farmers (from various states) who have lost their lives in this agitation, Amarinder Singh pointed out.

Farmers, Centre should resume talks: Dushyant Chautala

NEW DELHI

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Sunday said all farmer associations and the government should restart talks to find a solution over the three contentious farm laws.

He asserted that there are no threats to the BJP-JJP government in Haryana.

The Deputy Chief Minister said, "The Union government is continuously working to find a solution over the farm laws but it can only be achieved through dialogue."

He said a solution would be achieved only if all the farmer associations agree to resume talks once again with the government.

In a controversial remark regarding farmers' deaths at protest sites outside the national capital, Haryana agriculture minister J P Dalal said that the farmers who lost their lives during the ongoing protests would have died even if they had stayed back in their fields.

Responding to a reporter's query on the death of "200 farmers", Dalal said, "Had they been at their homes, they would have died there also."

Dalal further said, "Out of one to two lakh people, do 200 people not die in six months? Someone dies of a heart attack, while

Farmer hangs over inflated power bill

A 50-year-old farmer in Aligarh hanged himself after allegedly being slapped by Electricity Department officials and served an inflated power bill, according to the victim's family.

The incident took place at Sunaira village in Atrauli tehsil when the officials turned up at Ramji Lal's house and handed over a power bill of Rs 1,50,000. In protests against the incident, people placed the body in front of the local Electricity Department office and refused to proceed with the last rites until a case is filed against the SDO and junior engineer.

someone else dies due to some other illness."

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will address 'kisan panchayats' in three districts of Uttar Pradesh starting from Monday.

She will be visiting Bijinor on February 15 where she will address kisan panchayat in Chandpur at 12 noon.

The Congress leader will also address kisan panchayats in Mathura on February 19 and in Muzaffarnagar on February 20.

Allowing ayurveda doctors to perform surgery IMA announces petition movement against Modi govt’s move

NEW DELHI

The IMA on Sunday announced a mass petition movement from February 15-March 31 against a Central Council of Indian Medicine notification that authorises post-graduate practitioners in specified streams of ayurveda to perform general surgical procedures.

The doctors' body also said that this notification will lead to "mixopathy" and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) had held a pan-India relay hunger strike from February 1-14 on the issue. The "impractical, unscientific and un-

ethical notification" should be immediately withdrawn, it said in a statement, adding that besides the petition movement, it will also spread awareness among the people on the notification. The IMA also said that it will submit a list of 1,000 modern medicine doctors willing to serve in remote areas of the country to counter the "false" claim of lack of doctors.

"All IMA members, all specialty organisations, all modern medicine students, all women doctors across the country will educate people about this retrograde and unscientific mixing of different systems of healthcare. All modern medicine hospitals will promote the importance of scientific ethical surgical expertise,"

the doctors' body said. The IMA also announces non-cooperation movement "henceforth in which modern medicines surgeons and anesthesiologists shall not cooperate with AYUSH persons training and performing surgery", it said. The doctors' body has been opposing the notification by Central Council of Indian Medicine, a statutory body under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy). The notification authorises post-graduate practitioners in specified streams of Ayurveda to be trained to perform surgical procedures such as excisions of benign tumours, amputation of gangrene, nasal and cataract surgeries. PLB



Majority private banking stocks are positive and banks such as Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank may find support after 2-3 per cent decline, whereas supportive action is expected from other banking stocks. After the RBI policy, the NSE's banking index moved in a range with stock-specific action. PSU banks performed well, whereas no major moves were seen in private banks. Among mid-cap banks, IDFC First Bank and Federal Bank may do well.

India hold all aces against Engalnd

CHENNAI

ACE off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Sunday picked his 29th five-wicket Test haul to help India strengthen their position in the ongoing second match against England here at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

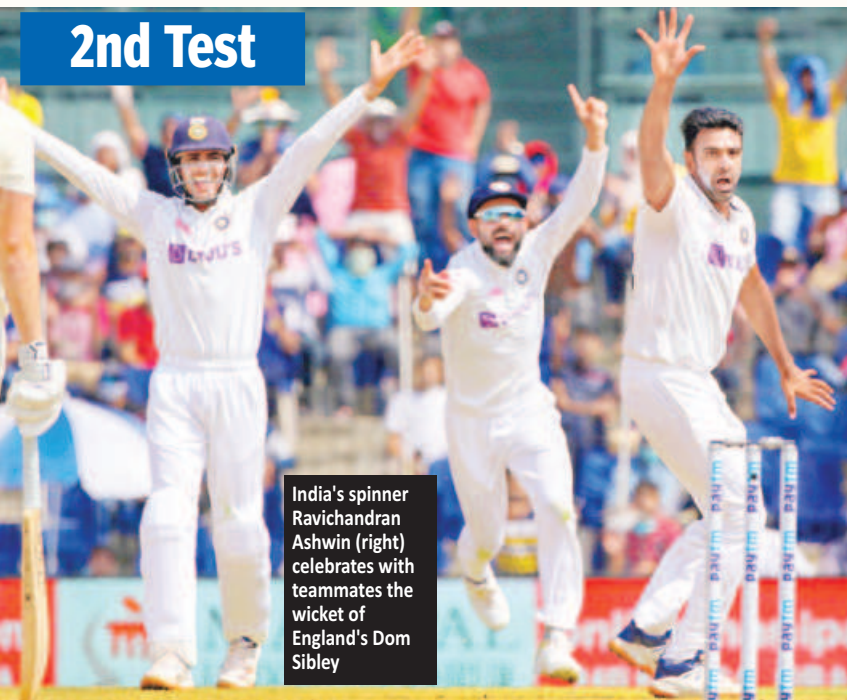
After bowling out England for just 134, India reached 54/1 in their second innings at Stumps on Day Two, thus swelling their lead to 249 runs.

Rohit Sharma, who had scored a brilliant 161 in India's first innings, was unbeaten at the crease on 25 and was accompanied by Cheteshwar Pujara who was batting on 7.

Shubman Gill was the lone wicket to fall in India's second innings as he was out lbw against spinner Jack Leach after scoring 14 runs.

Earlier, Ashwin and debutant Axar Patel made full use of the spin-friendly conditions as India bundled out the visitors inside 60 overs.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Ben Foakes was the lone England batsman who could tackle the Indian bowlers on a wearing 'Chepauk' pitch. He



India's spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (right) celebrates with teammates the wicket of England's Dom Sibley

2nd Test

Ashwin surpasses Bhaji for Test wickets in India, next only to Kumble

CHENNAI

SENIOR off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Sunday surpassed Harbhajan Singh to become the second highest wicket-taker in Tests played in India.

Ashwin got past Harbhajan, who took 265 wickets in India at an average of 28.76, by dismissing Ben Stokes with a perfect off-spinner on the second day of the second Test against England here. Ashwin's 266 wickets at home has come at an average of 22.67. Spin legend Anil Kumble is the leading wicket-taker in Tests in India with 350 scalps at an average of 24.88.

Kumble is also India's leading wicket-takers in Tests with 619 scalps to his game. The legendary Kapil Dev is second with 434 wickets. Harbhajan is third in the overall standings with 417 wickets and Ashwin is fourth with 391, having taken a five-wicket haul in England's first innings on Sunday. (PTI)

Visitors set new record for highest Test total without conceding extras

CHENNAI

ENGLAND on Sunday set a new record for the highest total without conceding an extra run by the fielding team in the ongoing second Test against India here at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

India were bowled out for 329 runs in the morning session on Day Two of the Test match. England, who took 95.5 overs to bowl out India, did not concede even a single run through an extra. Off-spinner

Moeen Ali took four wickets, fast bowler Olly Stone claimed three dismissals, Jack Leach bagged two wickets while captain Joe Root also scalped a

wicket.

England's disciplined bowling performance was in stark contrast to that of India in the first innings of the series opener when the hosts conceded 45 extras, including 20 no-balls.

The previous record belonged to India when they conceded 328 runs in the 187.5 overs they bowled against Pakistan without giving an extra run in a Test match in Lahore in 1955.

In 1931, England had conceded 252 runs in 130.4 overs against South Africa in Durban with conceding an extra run.

England lead the four-match series 1-0, having won the first Test by 227 runs. (IANS)



Pant's wicketkeeping ability takes centre stage with two stunners. The first catch was to dismiss Ollie Pope off the very first ball of fast bowler Mohammed Siraj's spell while the second sent back Jack Leach off Ishant Sharma bowling

SCOREBOARD DAY 2

India 1st innings (overnight 300/6):

Rohit Sharma c Moeen b Jack Leach161
Shubman Gill lbw b Olly Stone0
Cheteshwar Pujara c Stokes b Jack Leach21
Virat Kohli b Moeen0
Ajinkya Rahane b Moeen67
Rishabh Pant not out58
Ravichandran Ashwin c Ollie Pope b Root13
Axar Patel st Foakes b Moeen5
Ishant Sharma c Rory Burns b Moeen0
Kuldeep Yadav c Foakes b Olly Stone0
Mohammed Siraj c Foakes b Olly Stone4
Extras: (8-4, LB-4, NB-1)0
Total: (all out in 95.5 overs)329
Fall of wickets: 0-1, 85-2, 86-3, 248-4, 249-5, 284-6, 301-7, 301-8, 325-9

Bowling: Stuart Broad 11-2-37-0, Olly Stone 15.5-5-47-3, Jack Leach 27-3-78-2, Ben Stokes 2-0-16-0, Moeen Ali 29-3-128-4, Joe Root 11-3-23-1.
England 1st innings:

Rory Burns lbw b Ishant0
Dominic Sibley c Kohli b Ashwin16
Daniel Lawrence c Shubman Gill b Ashwin9
Joe Root c Ashwin b Axar6
Ben Stokes b Ashwin18
Ollie Pope c Pant b M Siraj22
Ben Foakes not out42
Moeen Ali c Rahane b Patel6
Olly Stone c Rohit b Ashwin1
Jack Leach c Pant b Ishant5
Stuart Broad b Ashwin0
Extras: (8-4, LB-4, NB-1)9
Total: (all out in 59.5 overs)134
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-16, 3-23, 4-39, 5-52, 6-87, 7-105, 8-106, 9-131, 10-134.

Bowling: Ishant Sharma 5-1-22-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 23.5-4-43-5, Axar Patel 20-3-40-2, Kuldeep Yadav 6-1-16-0, Mohammed Siraj 5-4-5-1.
India 2nd innings:

Rohit Sharma batting25
Shubman Gill lbw b Jack Leach14
Cheteshwar Pujara batting7
Extras: (8-5, LB-3)8
Total: (For one wicket in 18 overs)54
Fall of Wickets: 1-42.
Bowling: Olly Stone 2-0-8-0, Jack Leach 9-2-19-1, Moeen Ali 7-2-19-0.

World Para Athletics Grand Prix

India finish with 23 medals

DUBAI

TEENAGED high jumpers Praveen Kumar and Nishad Kumar produced personal best jumps to take a gold medal each and set new Asian records as curtains came down on the 12th Fazza World Para Athletics Grand Prix here.

Praveen's and Nishad's gold medal winning efforts were the high points in the final day's action for India who also had three silver and a bronze on Saturday, to end their campaign at the championships with 23 medals.

At the end of the competition, India were among the top finishers in the medal tally with Thailand returning home with 34 medals, while Turkey, Kenya and India finished with 23 medals. The hosts UAE ended with 14 medals, including two silvers, by their paralympic medallist middle-distance racer Mohammed Al Hammadi.

After a stellar show from the Indian javelin throwers on Day 3, expectations were high from the high jumpers and they didn't disappoint.

Eighteen-year-old Praveen's 2.05m jump was enough to make a new Asian record and fetch him the gold in men's high jump F42/44/64 event. He finished ahead of former Asian Para Games gold medallist and fellow Indian Sharad Kumar (1.76 m) and Hamada Hassan who also cleared the 1.76m bar.

"I managed a very good jump today. I am very happy that I got my personal best here. After so long I was competing, so I was a bit nervous. But all my hard work paid off here today. Also thanks to my coach Satyapal Sir who has been guiding me in my training," said the 2019 World Junior silver medallist.

"I want to win the gold at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. I will need to work very hard to achieve my target," he added.

This was Praveen's first senior international gold in his



Simran wins her second medal - a silver in women's 400m final T13 event

second senior event after the Dubai 2019 Worlds where he had booked a quota with his fourth-place finish.

In one of the last events of the day, Nishad, who already has booked a quota for India with his bronze medal finish at the Dubai 2019 Worlds, leapt to his personal best 2.06 m for the gold and an Asian record in men's high jump T46/47 event.

Congratulating the team, Paralympic Committee of India president Deepa Malik said: "Our para-athletes have made us really very proud. This championship was important in regard to their returning back to shape in the build up to Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, besides giving exposure to a few new faces."

Earlier, Simran won her second medal in the championships - a silver in women's 400m final T13 event crossing the finish line in 1:01.56 minutes. Simran already had a gold in the women's 100m T13.

Baghyashri Mahavir Jadhav claimed the silver in women's shot put F34 event with a throw of 6.18 m finishing second to Morocco's Saida Amoudi (8.33 m).

Atul Kaushik claimed the bronze in men's discus F57 event clearing a distance of 42.00 m. (IANS)

TODAY'S MATCH

Mumbai City FC vs Bengaluru FC
GMC Stadium Bambolim 5pm



RESULTS

NorthEast United FC beat Odisha FC 3-1
ATK Mohun Bagan beat Jamshedpur FC 1-0

ISL STANDINGS

CLUB	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
ATK Mohun Bagan	17	11	3	3	23	10	13	36
Mumbai City FC	16	10	4	2	25	11	14	34
NorthEast United FC	17	6	8	3	24	21	3	26
FC Goa	17	5	9	3	26	21	5	24
Hyderabad FC	17	5	9	3	21	17	4	24
Jamshedpur FC	18	5	6	7	16	20	-4	21
Bengaluru FC	17	4	7	6	19	21	-2	19
Chennaiyin FC	18	3	9	6	13	19	-6	18
SC East Bengal	17	3	8	6	15	22	-7	17
Kerala Blasters FC	17	3	7	7	22	29	-7	16
Odisha FC	17	1	6	10	17	30	-13	9

Serena cruises into Aus Open quarters

MELBOURNE

TWENTY three-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams on Sunday entered the quarter-finals of the Australian Open after fending off a stern challenge from No.7 seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.

Williams overcame Sabalenka 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in a ferocious fourth-round battle at Rod Laver Arena. Williams, in her ongoing quest for a 24th major singles title, fired 30 winners, including nine aces, to quell the charge from Sabalenka. Sabalenka had won 18 of her last 19 matches but it is Williams who moves into the last eight in Melbourne for the 13th time in her career.

"It was obviously real important because I didn't want to be out of the tournament, so it felt good to kind of clutch that in the end and get through that," Williams said after the match as per the WTA website.

The American will face either two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep or reigning Roland Garros champion Iga Swiatek for a place in the semi-finals.

Earlier in the day, 2019 champion Naomi Osaka saved two

match points to beat two-time Grand Slam champion Garbine Muguruza 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, to reach the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the second time in the past three years.

From 5-3, 15-40 down on serve in the final set, Osaka won four straight games to complete an improbable comeback in an exciting fourth-round contest which lasted one hour and 55 minutes.

She will next face Hsieh Su-wei of Chinese Taipei for a place in last four of the women's singles event. (IANS)



World's largest cricket stadium at Motera gears up to welcome fans

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) is thrilled to welcome its cricket fans for one of the most riveting series between India and England when it opens the gates of the world's largest cricket stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad after a break of six years.

GCA said the booking for the 3rd test match against England will open at 11.00 am on Sunday, 2021. The authorities have decided to allow 50 per cent spectators of the stadium's capacity during the test matches at GCA's cricket stadium at Motera. England will play two test matches including a day-night test match starting from February 24 and five T-20 Internationals.

Dhanraj Nathwani, vice president of Gujarat Cricket Association, said: "We are honoured to be hosting this series after a hiatus and are excitedly looking forward to entertain gathering of cricket fans at the world's largest cricket stadium at Motera considering social distancing and safety norms. We hope normalcy returns soon and we get to see the stadium packed with fans cheering from all the stands for their teams."

For the pink ball test, the third game in the series, tickets have been priced between Rs 300 and Rs 1,000. (IANS)

City extend winning run as Liverpool lose again

LONDON: Manchester City defeated Tottenham 3-0 to strengthen their grip at the top of the Premier League in their latest encounter to extend their already record-breaking winning run.

Saturday's game showed how things have changed since Spurs beat City 2-0 on November 21 to go top of the league and left City with 12 points from eight games as Pep Guardiola's side won with ease against a rival that is now struggling to qualify for Europe, reports Xinhua news agency. City's record 16th consecutive win was inspired by Ilkay Gundogan, who won the penalty that allowed Rodri to open the scoring from the penalty spot, before scoring himself in the 50th and 66th minutes to assure what was a very comfortable home win.

Liverpool's title defence continues to fall apart and coach Jurgen Klopp admitted it was over after they suffered their third consecutive defeat 3-1 after looking to be in a winning position against Leicester City. Mohamed Salah put Liverpool ahead in the 67th minute after a good assist from Roberto Firmino, but James Maddison's free kick in the 78th minute was the start of Liverpool's collapse.

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