

Womenia



Guide to help revive monsoon-damaged hair

If the pandemic has taught us all one thing it's to be self-sufficient in the grooming department. As compared to other seasons, men and women particularly experience more hair fall, itchy scalps, dandruff, dryness, and frizz in this season. Rainwater is acidic in nature, as it collects impurities and dirt from the environment. In rainy weather with the mix with Sulphur Dioxide, hair tends to become much more acidic in nature which is extremely harmful to it.

Hot Oil Massage to the rescue

Hot oil massaging ensures that essential nutrients are soaked deep into the roots and help to repair and revive the strands. Oils including Organic Cold pressed Coconut oil and Cold pressed Organic Neem Oil can be used once in a week. While Coconut oil acts as a protective layer to your hair and scalp, Neem Oil is cooling and clears out accumulated sweat and oil, which cause dandruff and itching. Give your hair a regular oil massage using warm oil infused with herbs like Amla, Bhringraj and indigo. A warm oil massage helps to increase blood circulation to the hair follicles and helps grow healthy hair. It also conditions your scalp and keeps your hair from being unruly and frizzy. Especially, if you have dry hair, a good massage can help to restore the lost natural oils and lustre.

Lemon Therapy

Lemons can help tresses which are affected by humidity or reduc-



The main hair concerns at this time of the year include rough, frizzy hair and a dry scalp as a result of monsoon weather

ing hair fall by tightening the pores in the scalp. Lemon contains lots of astringents and antioxidants that help in cleansing the scalp and tightening the pores. For this you simply need to squeeze out some lemon juice in a cup of warm water. Mix it well and pour it over your scalp and hair after you take a bath. This will help in tightening the pores which will control your hair fall and will also cleanse your scalp. Let it stay for about 20-25 minutes and gently rinse it off with cool water.

Homemade Masks

You can treat yourself with a hair mask for frizzy hair using a few fresh ingredients from your kitchen. This helps deep condition the hair, locking in necessary nutrition, and strengthening the

hair follicles. For this, mix a teaspoon each of Neem leaf powder, Amla powder, fresh yogurt, and mix them to create a creamy consistency. Apply this mask through the length of your hair and leave on for 30 minutes. Wash this with a mild cleanser and condition.

PUJA GUPTA

Bollywood actress Tara Sutaria believes that girls should leave their hair in its natural form. "Keep it simple, natural and be mindful of what you're putting in your hair," asserts Tara, who is the new face of St. Botanica. The 'Student of the Year 2' actress will be endorsing the brand's haircare range. Tara shares her hair care regime and suggests ways to prevent problems. Tara says, "Most of the time when we're shooting, our hair tends to get rough due to the usage of lots of styling products. So I like to follow a basic hair care routine at home, after washing my hair, I leave it to air dry.

I prefer wrapping my head in a hot towel, apart from being very calming, it makes the hair softer. Another essential practice is oiling, it makes my hair feel great. My go-to haircare hack that I used to do as a child was applying yoghurt to my scalp and hair which helps make the hair soft, silky and smooth. Yoghurt is an ingredient that is available in every household, so I'd recommend every-

one to use it."

Tara believes that as far as possible, one has to leave their hair in its natural form. "The more we try to style it with products or equipment, it can really damage the hair and it's bad in the long run. Because I'm in an industry that requires me to do so much of it, I've realised the goodness of simple products hence being a part of St. Botanica has opened my eyes towards sustainable and natural formulas that work for the hair. So keep it simple, natural and be mindful of what you're putting in your hair," adds Tara. This is the first time that the SOTY2 actress has been associated with a hair care brand. "It feels great and I'm happy to be associated with St. Botanica and learn so much about natural hair care. I love what they stand for - simple, natural and healthy hair. It's so amazing to go back to the basics. It's not everyday you come across brands that stand for sustainable, paraben-free formulas. I'm proud to be associated with them and completely resonate with their philosophy.

Being an all-Natural brand that offers plant-based formulas, it's great for our hair that takes us back to the old times when people took care of their hair in a simpler way," she ends

TWEET PATROL



BIPASHA BASU
@BIPSLUVURSELF

Memories of the same day last year♥

8th October 2019♥

#shindoorkhela #durgapuja #withmyfamily

#withmyfriends

<https://instagram.com/p/CGEtX0EjoHS/>



Styling casual tops for a polished look

Whether you want to shake off those Monday blues or give your all-out funky ensembles a break, your casual tops will help you break away from this monotonous routine and help you take the sophisticated route.

Turtleneck

Love that figure-hugging turtleneck top but don't get a chance to wear it as often as you'd like to? Well those days are long gone! Get out that strapless or halter neck jumpsuit and wear it over your suave turtleneck top. Keep it colour-blocked for an ultra-chic look. You'd agree that this office style is anything but basic!

Casual Shirt Shenanigans

Think of casual denim shirts and you'll most likely consider styling it with your black jeans or frayed shorts. Before spilling out any further details, any guesses on what we want you to wear it with? Well, it's a sleeveless dress! It may seem a bit 'out there' in theory, but it's actually quite stylish and practical. The trick is to wear a denim shirt without added detailing and opt for a printed dress or vice-versa. Avoid print-on-print in this ensemble as you

may just get a look, as they say, 'lost in translation'.

Sleeveless Charm

No need to shy away from sleeveless casual tees for women, particularly if you're looking to create that sophisticated look! Team it with a pair of trendy culottes and stilettos, a classy look that's also effortless. If the air-conditioning at your workplace is stopping you from giving this ensemble a try, fret not, you've got redemption in a crisp blazer. And, like Shawn Mendes would've reiterated in his popular song, 'there's nothing holding me back'; we suggest you give this a shot!

Peppy In Prints

Some days, all you need is a bit of colour to help you brighten up and conquer the day. Move over neutral-toned formal tops for the office and take out that printed top, which you'd otherwise have spared for fun day outings. Pair it with flared trousers for a polished touch and voila, you're a girl on a mission, taking to the streets in style!



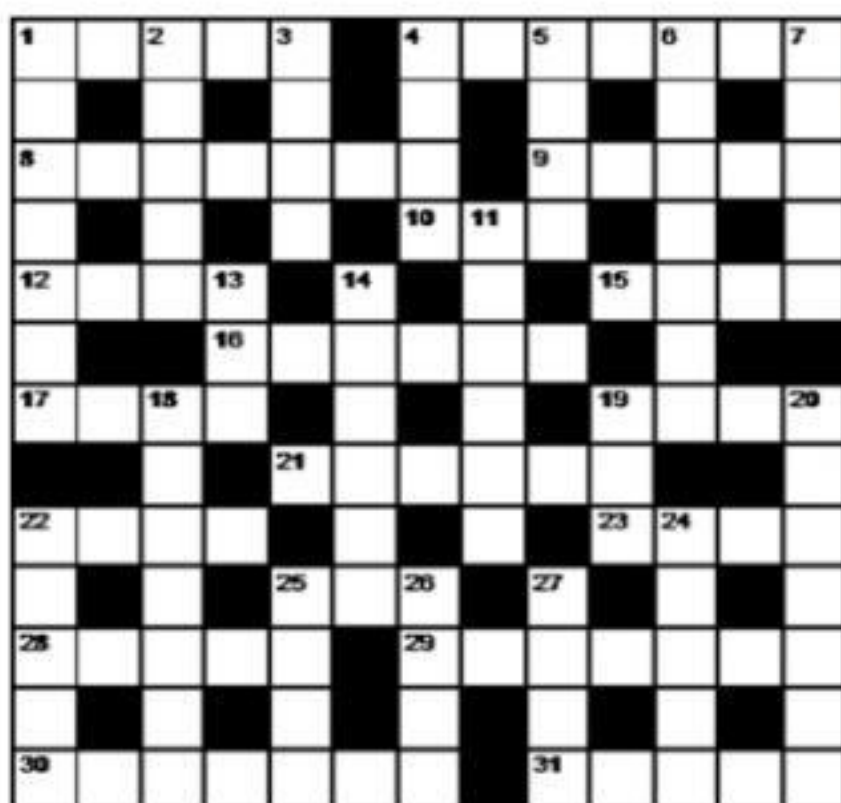
Tara Sutaria shares her haircare tips

The Bollywood actress reveals her haircare routine and her favourite new brand



You spot a pimple-right before your presentation

For a blemish, the ideal remedy is a color corrector that will help neutralize the red. Use corrective concealer sparingly just over the red areas to even out the color; then, using a brush, lightly pat a regular concealer (in a shade similar to your skin color) on top of that. For staying power, finish with a light dusting of loose powder tapped over the area.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 08

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Hoard (5)
- 4 Male donkey (7)
- 8 Censure (7)
- 9 Meat avoider (5)
- 10 Adam's wife (3)
- 12 Respiratory organ (4)
- 15 Popular songs (4)
- 16 1963 assassin (6)
- 17 Starchy root (4)
- 19 Ova (4)
- 21 Extremely (6)
- 22 Part of a candle (4)
- 23 British peer (4)
- 25 Application (3)
- 28 Make sense (3,2)
- 29 Photographer (7)
- 30 Garland (7)
- 31 Answer evasively (5)

Down

- 1 Two lines of verse (7)
- 2 Havana native (5)
- 3 Greek letters (4)
- 4 Light green (4)
- 5 Small bay (4)
- 6 Debating (7)
- 7 Transmits (5)
- 11 Depression between hills (6)
- 13 Sentimentality (3)
- 14 Faints (6)
- 18 Slopes backward (7)
- 19 Organ of sight (3)
- 20 Gag or muffle (7)
- 22 Pier (5)
- 24 Aspired (5)
- 25 As far as (2,2)
- 26 Blithe spirit (4)
- 27 Egyptian symbol of life (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 08

NEWS ROUNDUP

Disha Patani aces butterfly kick, Tiger Shroff is impressed

Actress and fitness enthusiast Disha Patani shared a video performing the butterfly kick that has left her rumoured beau Tiger Shroff gushing.

In her new Instagram video, Disha pulls off the butterfly kick without any aid and flawlessly.

"Butterfly kick," she captioned the image.

"Clean," commented Tiger, with a fire and clap emoji.

Tiger's mother Ayesha Shroff comment, "Wowwww deeeeshu." Disha is currently busy shooting for the upcoming film "Radhe", which features superstar Salman Khan in the starring role, along with Randeep Hooda. The film is directed by Prabhudeva. Salman recently shared his happiness on resuming shoot for the film after almost seven months.

The actress also has the starring role in "KTina", produced by Ekta Kapoor. The film also features Akshay Oberoi and Sunny Singh.



Top court denies Chinmayanand access to statement of rape victim

New Delhi (IANS): The Supreme Court on Thursday denied former BJP MP Swami Chinmayanand access to the statement of a complainant, who filed a rape case against him before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

A bench headed by Justice UU Lalit and comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Ravindra Bhat allowed the appeal filed by a law student, who is the complainant

in the matter.

The bench noted that as per the judgment of the top court in 2014, a copy of the statement under Section 164 CrPC should be given to the investigating officer immediately and the contents of the statement should not be disclosed to any person till charge-sheet/report under Section 173 CrPC.

Thus, the top court has set aside the Allahabad High Court, which directed Chinmayanand

be provided a copy of the statement made by the complainant in the case, who had levelled allegations of sexual harassment and rape against him.

In November 2019, the top court had granted an interim stay on the High Court order, which granted Chinmayanand access to the certified copy of the statement.

The victim had challenged the High Court order and contended that the copy of her statement

cannot be accessed before the filing of the charge sheet.

The victim had said that such practice would be contrary to law and may have a far-reaching effect in all cases of sexual offence against women.

Chinmayanand was arrested by the SIT on September 21, 2019, and sent to jail.

The 23-year-old complainant was also booked on charges of extortion.

Chinmayanand was granted

bailed in February this year by the Allahabad High Court.

The HC had noted that it is not clear who had used whom between the former BJP MP and the complainant.

The apex court had directed the state government to constitute an SIT headed by an IG-rank officer to examine the charges levelled by the woman, who had gone missing after alleging harassment by Chinmayanand.



Republic TV being probed for TRP manipulation

Mumbai: TV anchor Arnab Goswami's Republic TV is in the eye of a storm. Mumbai police is investigating TRP manipulations of Republic TV and two other media channels. In a press conference on Thursday, Mumbai police said two people have been arrested and one of them is a former employee of an agency that installed 'people metres' to access ratings.

The Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh identified the three channels, as Republic TV, Fakt Marathi, Box Cinema which is reportedly involved in distorting the apparatus used by BARC to rate television channels. They will be investigated for cheating and breach of trust. The bank accounts of these TV channels will be examined. Reports say some Republic TV employees have admitted to tampering with



TRPs. The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), which measures TRPs, has installed over 2,000 barometers in Mumbai for measuring the data. The locations where these instruments are installed are confidential.

As per reports, the investigation is part of a larger analysis of

the manipulation of news trends. This also includes how a "false narrative" was spread. Mumbai Police said that the information has been shared with the central government.

"Anyone involved in the channel, no matter how top management, how senior, will be ques-

Aaj Tak fined for Sushant coverage

New Delhi: The News Broadcasting Standards Authority has directed electronic news channels, Aaj Tak, Zee News, News24 and India TV to air an apology for 'insensitive reporting and sensationalising the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

NBSA also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh to Aaj Tak for telecasting fake tweets relating to Sushant Singh Rajput.

It said that the channels violated the privacy and affected the dignity of the deceased. India TV and Aaj Tak have also been censured for showing images of Sushant Singh Rajput's body.



tioned, and if involved they will be investigated," Singh said.

Hitting back at the Mumbai Police, Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami said it was an attempt to target the channel for its coverage of the Maharashtra government. Threaten-

ing to slap a criminal defamation case against Singh, he accused the police chief of making "false allegations" against the Republic TV because the channel had questioned him in the investigations of the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

78K new cases take tally past 68L

New Delhi (IANS): With a fresh spike of 78,524 coronavirus cases and 971 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Thursday went past the 68-lakh mark with a total of 68,35,655 cases.

Out of these, 9,02,425 are currently active; 58,27,704 have been discharged, while 1,05,526 have lost the battle against the pandemic.

The recovery rate stands at 85.02 per cent and the fatality rate at 1.55 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

On Tuesday, India recorded a



spike of 61,267, which was the lowest since August. But on Wednesday it again recorded 72,049 cases.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 14,80,489 cases, including 39,072 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 11,94,321 sample tests in a single day on Wednesday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 8,34,65,975.



IIM Calcutta-NY varsity to host 3-day India Research Conference

Kolkata: The Financial Research and Trading Laboratory, IIM Calcutta (IIMC) and Stern School of Business, New York University (NYU) are jointly hosting a three-day virtual conference with a sharp focus on India. The conference will bring together leading academic and policy experts for an in-depth discussion on India's financial markets and implications on the international economic scenario.

The series has been organised by Professors Kose John and Maheswaran Durairaj of NYU Stern and Professors Sudhir Jaiswall and Anju Seth of IIM Calcutta. The research conference will be virtually hosted from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm India Time (8 am to 12 noon New York Time). The conference is open for all and requires a prior registration.

The conference will begin with a welcome note and introductory remarks from Prof Kose John, NYU Stern School Business. This will be followed by presentation and discussion of four research studies in accounting, finance, and economics. The highlight of Day 1 is the keynote address by Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo of MIT.

Ex-constable beats former Bihar DGP in race for ticket

Patna: Former Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey, who quit his job last month and announced his political debut, has missed out on the chance to contest the approaching state election. He had made it clear that he wished to contest the polls from Buxar, his home district, as a candidate of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United, according to NDTV report.

The man who has been chosen to contest from the seat is a former Bihar police constable. Parshuram Chaturvedi, the BJP's candidate from Buxar, is better known as the man who knocked off the "DGP" (Director General of Police) from the race.

"The DGP is my elder brother. I touch his feet in reverence and have nothing but affection for him," Mr Chaturvedi told reporters today, thanking his party BJP for choosing him.

Chaturvedi said during his days in the Bihar police, he worked in several departments, including the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). "I was respected everywhere I worked. I was known to be diligent and sincere," he said, adding that the experience had helped him in politics.

Asked whether he was confident of winning, the former cop flashed a victory sign.

Gupteshwar Pandey had taken



voluntary retirement from the police force and joined Nitish Kumar's party. Yesterday, his name was missing from the list of JDUs 11 candidates for the Bihar election starting October 28.

The ex-police chief may have anticipated a better reward for his role in the Bihar government's push in the Sushant Singh Rajput investigations. On the day of his retirement, a video lionizing him as "Robinhood Pandey", a public hero, was also strategically released.

"I am upset with the phone of many of my well-wishers. I also understand their anxiety and troubles. After I got free, everyone expected that I will contest the election but I am not contesting assembly elections this time. There's no such thing as being frustrated. Be patient. My life has been spent in the struggle," Pandey wrote in a Facebook post.

Three IAF Balakot ops officers honoured with Yudh Seva Medal

New Delhi (IANS): Three Indian Air Force officers who took part in the Balakot operation last year received gallantry medals on the occasion of 88th Air Force Day on Thursday.

The officers who received the Yudh Seva Medal are Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, Group Captain Hansel Sequera and Group Captain Hemant Kumar Vadsra.

Yudh Seva Medal recognises distinguished service of a high order during war, conflict or hostilities.

Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal is a Fighter Controller with the Indian Air Force. She was part of the team that guided Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman during the 2019 Balakot airstrike carried out by the IAF.

To avenge the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, India carried out an aerial strike at a terror training camps in Balakot in Pakistan on February 26 last year.

A total 40 soldiers were killed in the terror attack claimed by Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed on February 14.

Indian Air Force Day is commemorated on October 8 every year to mark the foundation day of the Air Force.



Defaming Hathras victim revolting, says Priyanka

Family was against our friendship, they killed her: Hathras accused

Lucknow: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday accused the BJP of building a narrative to defame the Hathras victim, saying she deserves justice and not slander. She charged that a narrative is being built by the ruling party in Uttar Pradesh for holding the woman responsible for crimes committed against her.

"Creating a narrative that defames a woman's character and holding her somehow responsible for crimes committed against her is revolting and regressive," she said on Twitter.

"A heinous crime has been committed at Hathras, leaving a 20-year-old Dalit woman dead. Her body has been burned without the participation or consent of her family. She deserves justice not slander," Gandhi also said.

The Congress general secretary for



Uttar Pradesh also used a hashtag, accusing the BJP of being "shameless".

Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had earlier visited the victim's family last Saturday. The 19-year-old Dalit woman from Hathras was allegedly raped and attacked by four upper-caste men. She later succumbed to injuries at a Delhi hospital. The inci-

dent has triggered outrage across the country after TV footage showed that the local police cremated the body at night.

Her family members alleged they were not allowed to bring the body home one last time, but police claimed they had the family's consent for the cremation. The family is now demanding a judicial probe into the incident while the UP government has sought a CBI probe.

The main accused has written to the Uttar Pradesh police, claiming that he and the three other accused are being framed in the case and sought "justice" for the four men. He also accused the woman's mother and brother of torturing her.

Sandeep Thakur, who is in jail along with the three others, has written a letter to the police in Hathras, claiming that he and the 20-year-old

woman were "friends". "Apart from meeting, we used to speak on the phone once in a while," he wrote, in the handwritten letter in Hindi. The letter has the thumb impressions of all four accused.

The UP police had claimed that call records reveal that the woman's brother had been in touch with Sandeep Thakur. Some 104 calls were made between the brother and Sandeep Thakur from October last year to March, the police claim.

Sandeep Thakur, in his letter, alleged that her family did not like their friendship. "On the day of the incident, I had gone to meet her in the fields that day where her mother and brothers were also present. I returned home after being asked by her to do so. I then started feeding cattle," he said.

India will need more cold storage for Covid vaccine: Experts

New Delhi: The safe delivery of vaccines for mass immunisation against COVID-19 is a massive challenge and India will need to significantly ramp up its cold chain facilities, say experts as the world's second most populous nation moves into the next stage of management of the disease and looks towards a preventive.

With most frontrunner vaccine candidates likely to require 'extra cold' storage, the private sector could also be roped in for effective delivery of a preventive when it is available, suggest several experts and industry insiders.

Some vaccine frontrunners are in advanced stages of trial and could hit the market by early next year, making the task of securing "last mile connectivity" and ensuring that nothing goes wrong before the shot is administered more urgent.

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said earlier this week that the government expects to receive

and utilise 400-500 million vaccine doses for COVID-19, and cover approximately 20-25 crore people by July 2021.

The Centre has also reportedly directed states to make a robust plan for vaccine storage and distribution by October 15.

"Most if not all the current frontrunners require extremely stringent cold chains, making them immensely challenging for India to implement," said Satyajit Rath from New Delhi's National Institute of Immunology.

The immunologist noted that some COVID-19 vaccines will need storage temperatures that simply cannot be realistically managed in any large-scale Indian campaign.

He said the real problems will arise once vaccines are ready to go into the market.

Vaccine candidates by Moderna and Pfizer will require stringent standards for refrigeration that may hamper how they are distrib-



uted to millions of people across India's length and breadth, according to scientists.

Unlike drugs, virtually all vaccines need to be transported at cold temperatures, usually between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius, said Raghavan Varadarajan, professor at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru.

"The necessity is to keep the vaccine product cold, either refrigerated or frozen. This is a constraint especially with large num-

bers of doses, Varadarajan told PTI, explaining the particular problems of India that has a population of 1.3 billion, second only to China.

Many vaccines lose potency when exposed to higher temperatures, he said, and re-cooling does not help.

Thus we need what is called the cold chain of handling before use, said Varadarajan whose team at IISc is working on a "warm vaccine" that can be stored for over a

month at 37 degrees Celsius, and needs no cold chain for storage.

Pawanexh Kohli, the founding CEO of India's National Centre for Cold-Chain Development, agreed that protocols will require COVID-19 vaccines to be kept between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius, while in transport and storage until delivery.

"The Moderna vaccine candidate is shipped in minus 20 degrees Celsius and held at 2-4 degrees for seven days. The Pfizer (vaccine) that requires minus 70 degrees temperatures," Kohli, honorary professor of post-harvest Logistics at the University of Birmingham in the UK, told PTI.

Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use a synthetic version of genetic material from part of the coronavirus.

The genetic material called messenger RNA (mRNA) then prompts the cells to make a tiny piece of the virus, which the immune system recognises as for-

eign. If the person is later exposed to the real virus, the immune system will attack it.

Noting that RNA vaccines have never been used on humans, Varadarajan said it is possible high temperatures can affect these structures and thus affect the efficacy of the formulation.

While a bulk of the vaccines will be distributed through the Centre's Universal Immunization Programme mechanism, experts also suggest that the government rope in private cold chain operators.

The vast scale of India's UIP is supported by more than 27,000 functional cold chain points of which 750 (3 per cent) are located at the district level and above. The rest are located below the district level, according to the government's comprehensive multi-year UIP plan for 2018-22.

This includes 76,000 cold chain 'equipment', 2.5 million health workers, and 55,000 cold chain

staff, the plan report said.

Cold chain logistics involves many moving parts, including cold storage facilities that store products waiting to be transported, cooling systems to keep it at an appropriate temperature during all aspects of the supply chain such as storing and transporting. Gel packs are also often used for medical and pharmaceutical shipments.

Approximately 390 million doses are administered annually at nine million sessions held across the country to immunise 26 million children and 30 million pregnant women, it said.

Noting that cold storage protocols are well established in India, Kohli said the public health network is limited in capacity.

"Luckily, the food cold chain has synergistic use for this purpose and should assist in this battle. Existing cold chain enterprises may need to allocate specific resources in their network," noted Kohli.

World can't progress without ability to think, quiz

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to scientists Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for their discoveries about black holes. Göran K Hansson, secretary for the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said at the ceremony in Stockholm that this year's prize was about "the darkest secrets of the universe." Penrose, a professor at the University of Oxford who worked with Stephen Hawking, was awarded half of the prize "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity." The other half was awarded jointly to Genzel and Ghez "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy." Two things stand out here. The Nobel Committee honoured Professor Stephen Hawking indirectly and equally in mentioning "the Nobel legacy stipends that the committee cannot award posthumously. Professor Hawking's contributions are mentioned in the Nobel's

scientific backgrounder in both the Penrose and Genzel-Ghez sections, giving a 'nod' to the British physicist. The second point is the reaction of Prof Ghez to the announcement that the honour made her feel more passionate about the teaching side of her job than ever. In addition, she said the prize was even more significant "because it's so important to convince the younger generation that their ability to question, and their ability to think, is just crucial to the future of the world." Penrose, born in Colchester in England, worked with fellow physicist Hawking to merge Einstein's theory of relativity with quantum theory to suggest that space and time would begin with the Big Bang and end in black holes. While Einstein's general theory of relativity predicts the existence of black holes, Einstein did not himself believe they really existed. Penrose was the first to prove mathematically, in 1965, that they are a natural consequence of relativity theory and not just science fiction, working in the shadows of Stephen Hawking. Genzel, born in Bad Homburg vor der Höhe, Germany, is director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching, Germany and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. Genzel and Ghez discovered that an invisible and extremely heavy object governs the orbits of stars

at the centre of our galaxy. A supermassive black hole is the only currently known explanation. Similarly, this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to two scientists who transformed an obscure bacterial immune mechanism, commonly called CRISPR, into a tool that can simply and cheaply edit the genomes of everything from wheat to mosquitoes to humans. The award went jointly to Emmanuelle Charpentier of the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens and Jennifer Doudna of University of California, Berkeley, "for the development of a method for genome editing." They first showed that CRISPR — which stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats — could edit DNA in an in vitro system in a paper published in the 28 June 2012 issue of Science. The ability to cut DNA where you want has revolutionised the life sciences. The genetic scissors were discovered eight years ago but have already benefited humankind greatly. As Prof Ghez stated what is important is the ability to question and the ability to think. World does not progress without the ability to think and question. For that matter no institution thrives if questioning is banned. Once we start suspecting the credentials of those questioning, we go back to the medieval ages. Right?



Rapes show double struggle of low-caste women in India

ANNIE BANERJI & SAURABH SHARMA

The victim of India's latest alleged gang rape faced the double discrimination of being born female and low caste, according to her family, fearing she will get no justice in death either. They say it would all have been different if the 19-year-old victim of a brutal attack came from an upper-caste family or if the suspects were all lower-caste Indians, known as Dalit.

"The police are twisting facts," her brother, who cannot be named for legal reasons, told these correspondents. "Things could have been different had we belonged to an upper caste."

His sister - who cannot be named - died from her injuries last week after she was allegedly attacked by upper-caste men on Sept. 14 in a field near her home in India's most populous State of Uttar Pradesh, sparking widespread outrage and protests.

Days later, another lower-caste Dalit woman died in the same State, also after being gang raped. The cases highlight discrimination and abuse against India's 200 million Dalits, who are on the lowest rung of an ancient caste hierarchy and suffer social and economic exclusion despite laws to protect them.

They also underscore the kind of challenges Dalits can face in getting justice - this, in a system overhauled in the wake of a fatal gang rape in 2012 that sparked global outrage.

Critics point to lapses by law enforcement in the wake of last month's attack, which the National Human Rights Commission called "a serious issue of violation of human rights".

While the family say the woman died as the result of the sex assault, state police argue that forensic tests show she died due to a neck injury and that "no sperm was found in samples".

"That is not true. My sister said it on camera that a bad thing was done to her," the brother said, referring to her dying declaration.

The Uttar Pradesh police did not respond to requests for comment. Doctors who treated the woman also rejected the findings, saying the samples were sent for tests 11 days after the attack. Government guidelines say forensic evidence can only be found up to 96 hours after the incident.

The police have arrested four higher-caste Hindu men over the attack, while the State has given the family compensation and heavy security for protection. India's top court will monitor the investigation by federal police at the request of the State amid mounting public criticism. The family say the victim's body was forcibly cremated by police in the middle of the night without their consent, an allegation that officials deny. The State also barred media and Opposition politicians from meeting the family for days. Backlash over such moves led to the suspension of five senior police officers, the State police department announced last week.

"We did not even get a chance to see my sister's face one last time," said the brother, 28.

Dalit rights activists say lower-caste women suffer a double discrimination - gender and caste - when accessing India's under-resourced and often insensitive criminal justice system. They say the obstacles are numerous - be it the hostile police, unsympathetic forensic examinations, lack of counselling, shoddy investigations or weak courts. "Institutional barriers are far worse for girls and women from marginalised communities such as Dalits," said Jayshree Bajoria, a consultant at Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"The justice system often becomes a nightmare for the women who dare to speak out and seek justice." The Ministry of Women and Child Development did not respond to requests for comment.

India launched a slew of legal reforms after the 2012 gang rape, including easier mechanisms to report sex crimes, fast-track courts and a tougher rape law with the death penalty.

Yet India has a grim record of sexual violence, with Uttar Pradesh the least safe state for women in the country. India recorded more than 32,000 rapes - or about 87 per day - in 2019, according to the latest crime data. The police arrested nearly 4,000 people, with 300 resulting in convictions. More than 1,000 were acquitted. Campaigners say acquittals are high due to the delayed or botched collection of evidence, which can derail cases in court. A study published last month detailed the harrowing experience of 14 rape victims, including 11 from marginalised groups, when they tried to report a crime in Uttar Pradesh, where caste still plays a big role in politics.

The report said some police refused to register a crime, others blamed victims or pushed women to settle out of court so as to shield suspects from dominant castes. Manjula Pradeep, a Dalit lawyer who helps sexual assault victims, said she knew this pattern all too well. She said a lack of counselling, zero police protection and lengthy trials in which victims are seldom provided a lawyer of their choice add to the trauma and stigma of sexual violence.

"The first important step is to see women from marginalised communities as human beings and not as objects," said Pradeep, director at Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network (DHRDNet). She said without support, the mental health of victims is affected and breaks their trust in the criminal justice system. They often become tired and disillusioned, unable to spend the time and money required to attend court hearings, and some just want to get on with life. For Gira, a Dalit victim of sex trafficking who battled half a decade for justice, the only solution is for India at long last to ditch a deep caste prejudice that was outlawed in 1955.

"We have to end this. It is too deeply entrenched in our society. Are we not all the same? We are all one. But our lives, our battles become very different because of (caste)," she said. "My fight for justice took five years. But nobody else should have to wait that long for that kind of mental peace."

Food, fashion, flying post-Covid-19

SAKSHI RANA & TANVI GAUR

If you had told someone in pre-Covid Jalandhar that it was possible to see Himalayan peaks from the city, the statement might have drawn disbelief. But half a month down the first phase of the countrywide lockdown due to Covid-19, Jalandharis woke up one morning to witness this miracle.

The development was reported widely, not just in India but also the rest of the world. Well, you don't see snow-clad Himalayan peaks every day from Jalandhar, even if it is possible, thanks to the severe air pollution. Similarly, air quality improved drastically all over the world. Heavily polluted cities like Wuhan, Seoul and New Delhi experienced 44 per cent, 54 per cent and 60 per cent decreases in PM2.5.

Many rivers in India, including the Yamuna that is considered ecologically dead in its course after Delhi, were found to be thriving. Even wild animals were spotted frequently on deserted streets and were seen exploring human habitations. Such positive news brought much-needed cheer during the pandemic.

However, as restrictions were imposed on traveling and we were forced to stay at home, a drastic change in consumption patterns was observed due to the disruption of global and local supply chains. This resulted in a reduction in the global carbon footprint by 17-25 per cent.

Once the restrictions were lifted and things started going back to 'normal', pollution and carbon emissions also reverted to their pre-COVID levels or even higher as many countries are now pushing for greater economic growth to make up for the losses.

It is clear from this pandemic that nature has the ability to bounce back if we stop doing business-as-usual and embrace transformative change — "a fundamental, system-wide change that includes consideration of technological, economic and social factors, including in terms of paradigms, goals or values".

This means that we need to move from an anthropocentric approach to an eco-centric one, by inculcating changes in our perceptions, actions and consumption patterns. Collectively, our little acts of change can help in transitioning to a new normal post-COVID world where we value nature for itself, sustainability is preferred over endless growth, and the world is a just and safe place for all.

Development at the cost of nature and our inability to anticipate drastic events have resulted in pandemics like Covid-19. If we do not change our ways, the future of our planet and humanity seems bleak, according to the latest reports of agencies including Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Union Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), Government of India.

The IPBES global report estimates that our pursuit for economic growth has put one million species at risk globally, which are the very foundation of our well-being.

The IPCC warns that if carbon emissions continue as usual, we are very likely to exceed our carbon budget by 2030 and make our world warmer by 1.5 degrees Cel-



Switching to alternative, organic and locally grown food can help in curbing emissions, pollution and waste. Buying local shortens the supply chain, which brings down the cost and energy of transporting the food and also supports the local agro economy. However, the best is to grow our own food. During lockdown, social media was flooded with pictures and posts of the produce that people got from their kitchen gardening. Many of our relatives, friends and colleagues were growing their own food in their balcony, terrace or backyard. It is fantastic to be able to grow food in our homes and even better if we do it collectively. You might be surprised to know that the concept of 'urban / community gardening' is actually getting popular in cities like Bengaluru, Paris and New York

sus (°C), which is expected to have adverse irreversible impacts on the planet.

According to the MoES report, the first-ever climate change assessment of India, the average temperature of India has increased by 0.7°C during 1901-2018, mainly because of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It also warns that if the present rate of emissions continue, India would experience extreme weather events more frequently by the end of the 21st century.

We are already seeing the signs — flash floods, wildfire, storms, cyclones etc, becoming more common and worse to handle. In short, the well-being of the whole planet and humanity is at risk, and our future generations are going to bear the brunt of our present choices.

But in order to ensure a safe and sustainable world, do individual efforts really matter? Scientific evidence says they do.

A recent Oxfam study based on understanding the linkages between the consumption patterns at different income levels and global carbon emission states that between 1990 and 2015, the world's wealthiest 10 per cent were responsible for 52 per cent of global carbon emissions

while middle income 40 per cent were responsible for 49 per cent. The figures are alarming and indicate that the rich need to change their lifestyles and not the poor.

Another Oxfam study found that collectively, our 'individual consumption choices' were accountable for 64 per cent of global emissions, which means that everyone has a role to play in saving our planet. Covid-19 compelled us to live a minimalist lifestyle and proved that it is possible to change for good.

During the initial phases of the lockdown, we were flying or going out less often, consuming less fancy food, clothes and other lifestyle items. We had to survive with the bare minimum and utilise the resources efficiently and creatively, which helped in bringing down our carbon emissions. Food, fashion, fuel (for transportation) and flying are estimated to be responsible for about 26 per cent, 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 2.4 per cent of global carbon emissions respectively. We should continue to pay attention to these four lifestyle choices.

Our choices as consumers fuel demand for goods and services. We should decide

consciously in choosing ethical brands, recycle / upcycle as much as we can and educate ourselves on the ways we can help the environment. After becoming well-informed, we must advocate for our choices. We should also encourage our younger generation to keep themselves informed as they are the future of our world. They ought to know the power they have in their hands to bring the change.

Likewise, switching to alternative, organic and locally grown food can help in curbing emissions, pollution and waste. Buying local shortens the supply chain, which brings down the cost and energy of transporting the food and also supports the local agro economy. However, the best is to grow our own food. During lockdown, social media was flooded with pictures and posts of the produce that people got from their kitchen gardening. Many of our relatives, friends and colleagues were growing their own food in their balcony, terrace or backyard.

It is fantastic to be able to grow food in our homes and even better if we do it collectively. You might be surprised to know that the concept of 'urban / community gardening' is actually getting popular in cities like Bengaluru, Paris and New York.

With a surge of fast fashion sites and apps, it has become easier to buy trendy clothes (and contribute to carbon emissions and resource exploitation) in the comfort of your home. However, we appeal to you to go slow on fast fashion. Choose fewer, essential and high-quality clothing that will last for years over numerous low-quality items of clothing with short shelf lives. These days, there are also many online thrift stores operating through social media sites like Instagram and Facebook. Rental shops like Flyrobe have made it possible to rent quality clothes for special occasions and festivals.

While living car-free for a year saves about 2.4 tonnes CO2-equivalent emissions, we understand it is not possible for all to forego personal vehicles completely. So the next best option is to carpool, use bicycles, or to simply walk, especially for small distance commutes within cities or towns.

For domestic travel, trains, buses and cars are better options than flight in terms of the carbon emissions. We can try to fly less, with no or less stopovers and only when it is inevitable.

Climate advocates had been urging all of us to take these small actions and make that big change. But it took COVID-19 to make us realise that we need to rethink some of our consumption choices. It is important to cut down our carbon footprint and adopt a minimalist lifestyle to share what is left with us. If we can do it for a few months, then why not make it a habit.

We have only one planet to live on. And lastly, transformative change is not completely possible with just these small actions but requires deep systemic changes through long term and sincere commitments from our governments, policymakers and corporate leaders. Let's not shy away from demanding for the world that we desire for us and our future generations and also do our bit for the same.

(Courtesy: Down To Earth. The authors are PhD scholars at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun)

incident on her way to court. She survived but two of her relatives were killed in that accident. Another gang rape victim from Unnao itself, was set on fire while attending the court hearing of her own case by the accused. She died in hospital. Now, her nephew is reportedly missing. What I don't understand is why the case went to the Supreme Court, or why the Court did not defer to the Allahabad high court, which showed the integrity to take suo motu notice of the ghastly event. In the desert that the rule of law has become, the Allahabad high court has been a rare example in calling the administration to account on blatant violation of human rights. Perhaps the Supreme Court will suggest the Allahabad court monitor the CBI probe, which the Adityanath administration now also seeks, at the same time, oddly enough, that it has extended the SIT mission by another ten days. After Kathua, Unnao and Hathras, we cannot avoid the glaring question of why our ruling party is so tolerant of party representatives who seek to defend alleged rapists and murderers or those that have been complicit.

Durga Sreevani, Hyderabad

the justice system may view these familiar tactics on behalf of the powers-that-be. Can we as citizens now hope that the courts will think hard before consigning people arraigned in FIRs to custody if the averments made therein seem patently cooked up with the object of chilling the opposition once again into silence?

Raghuram G, Hyderabad

BJP in denial mode

The BJP seems to be in denial mode on the rape and murder of a Dalit girl in UP's Hathras village. Remember what happened in Kathua, where a minor shepherd girl was raped and murdered, and Unnao, where the 17-year old victim survived? There too, BJP leaders denied rape and BJP workers on the ground led demonstrations asserting the accused were innocent, that those who cried rape had malicious designs. There too, the victims' families were threatened. Indeed, in Unnao, the girl's father was accused of brutalising her himself, beaten by the then BJP MLA's men and taken into custody by the local police, who allowed him no treatment, so he died a few days later. The girl was supposed to have witness protection, but was severely injured in a car ac-



LETTERS

Will the protests be silenced?



Will the fate of the public resistance now in evidence, be it in the case of the Hathras cruelty or the farm-related agitations, see a repeat of what transpired after the clampdown on the anti-CAA protestors, or will this new democratic opposition to bad laws and human cruelties find a more extensive life and strength? Protests run by citizens tend to be selflessly pegged to human rights issues; while it is good that organised political forces are engaging with the current challenges, one never knows when sectarian and political interests may dictate either withdrawal or intensification. I have great hope that they will carry on protesting but cannot say whether they will see these matters to the end. It also remains to be seen how

High Court takes serious view of Speaker's remarks on judiciary

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nelapadu (Amaravati): The Division Bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court consisting of Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice Uma Devi opined that it was not proper on the part of Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly Tammineni Sitaram being in a responsible comments on the functioning of the High Court.

The division bench was hearing a writ petition filed by the High Court registry against the media, people's representatives, in the social media and the social media accounts run by the YSR Congress, on Thursday.

The division bench made it clear that if the CID failed to perform its duty, the case might be transferred to the CBI for in-

- Warns that if the CID doesn't do its job, it will have to entrust the investigation to CBI
- Says it appears that a war was launched against the judiciary in the state
- AG submits that there is no evidence that comments against the court and judges in social media are concerted



vestigation. When asked, the standing counsel informed the High Court that the Speaker made those remarks while ad-

informed the bench that there was no evidence to suggest that there was a conspiracy behind the social media postings against the judiciary. Stating that the government had a lot of respect towards the judiciary, the advocate general said that it was unfortunate that the judiciary delivered such opinions. In case of allegations against such persons, they could be made parties to listen to their arguments, he said. "The government has no objection to handing over the case to the CBI," he added.

It may be recalled that the High Court registry while filing the writ petition mentioned that the Speaker, MP Vijayasai Reddy and several ministers attacked the judiciary in a systematic manner.

Naidu says State is ignoring second wave of infections

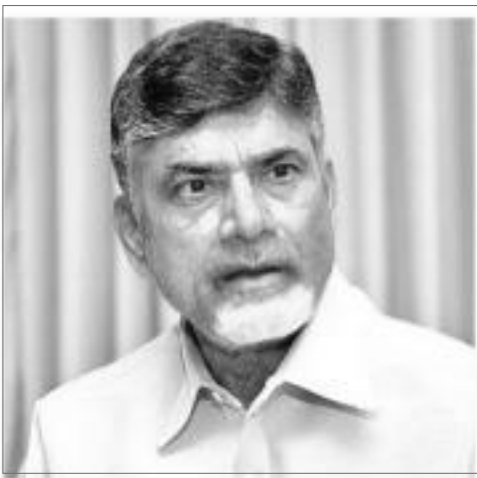
HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Criticising Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy neglecting the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Andhra Pradesh, TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu stressed the need for more serious efforts to save the people.

In a statement on Thursday, Chandrababu Naidu said it is unfortunate that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi was raising awareness on physical distancing and mask-wearing, Jagan was not taking any preventive measures. On the other hand, the state government was more interested in reopening the schools, theatres and liquor shops regardless of the threat of infections.

Naidu said that the government should give equal emphasis to the fight against the virus along with the economy revival measures. It may be noted that state stood second in the number of infections in the country and first in virus cases per lakh population.

The TDP supremo said, "A more focused, cluster-based approach is necessary to prevent the disastrous impact of the second



- Criticises Jagan for not taking any steps to prevent second wave of coronavirus
- Asks the state govt to give importance to revival of economy along with fighting the virus

wave infections. There were reports of serious health complications and greater number of deaths in the second attack". The future socio-economic recovery of any state or country or a community will depend solely on how best they take post-Covid management steps. A weekly audit of the status of infections will give an idea to effectively counter the epidemic, he opined.

Stating that the vaccine was expected by the end of the year, Naidu said that even then, the economic impact will remain for one or two years more. The governments should rescue the helpless sections from crisis.

The website www.apfight-scورونا.com started by the TDP was the first of its kind platform to highlight the plight of people who lost their jobs due to coronavirus. Through the global forum for sustainable transformation (GFST), weekly bulletins were sent to the Prime Minister's Office on best practices.

Naidu said that over 1,005 distressed people have reported their problems on the website. Most of these respondents have lost their jobs and are facing financial problems. Some of them recounted their bitter experiences during Covid treatment and at funeral services of their near and dear ones. Some respondents talked about the loss of crops and non-availability of essential commodities. The Etikoppaka toymakers expressed their financial distress following a loss of demand for their products to TDP chief.

MLA Bhumana tests positive for Covid-19 second time

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: In a case of rare reinfection, Tirupati YSRCP MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy tested positive for Covid-19 for second time. It may be noted that on August 25, he tested positive first time and had treatment in Ruia hospital. This time, he tested positive for coronavirus in a private lab one day ago. Soon after result came positive, the MLA rushed to Hyderabad to get admitted in a private hospital for better treatment. All the official programmes have been cancelled due to his illness.

After tested negative following treatment in Ruia hospital, Bhumana had actively participated in various public programmes and official activities in the last one month. He is to participate in foundation laying programme for a road construction on Thursday, but it has been cancelled.



Govt permits film shootings in State

- The managing director of state film, TV, theatre development corporation says corporation will allow to shot in the government properties and premises
- He appeals to film makers and producers to utilise the opportunity
- During the shoot, technicians and actors should follow standard operating procedure and guidelines issued by the centre

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh state Film, TV, Theatre Development Corporation managing director T Vijay Kumar Reddy said that the state government has issued orders allowing the filmmakers to shoot in the state by following the Covid-19 guidelines.

In a statement, T Vijay Kumar Reddy said that the corporation will give permissions to the film makers to shoot in the government



properties and premises. He appealed to the film makers and producers to utilise the opportunity.

It may be recalled that the government has stopped permitting film shooting after the breakout of the pandemic in the state. However, after the Central government issued standard operating procedure (SoP) and guidelines on August 21, the state has also issued orders to allow film shooting.

As per the SoP, all the technicians must wear mask during the shooting with the exception to the actors. During the shooting, the

equipment and set should be sanitised. If it is not possible to opt for hand wash, sanitisers should be used by the technicians as well as actors. The six-foot physical distance should be maintained by the technicians unless it is technically not possible.

During the screening in the cinema theatres, the guidelines should be displayed for the audience to take precautions, said T Vijay Kumar Reddy.

The details of precautions can be obtained by for the website www.apsftvtdc.in.

Wife gets death certificate for husband who is alive



Ravi Kumar showing the property documents in a selfie video. (Right) Shaik Haseena

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kurnool: A woman obtained death certificate for her husband who is alive, reportedly to inherit his property. The incident came to light when the video of the husband pouring out his ordeal to media, went viral on social media. The revenue department officials swung into action to rectify the mistake.

According to source, Ravi Kumar alias Mahaboob Basha, a resident of Nandyal, married Haseena of Amalur village in Panyam mandal in 2001. Though they belong to different communities, their marriage took place in the presence of their families. The couple has with two children. In 2011, Ravi met with an acci-

dent and has bed-ridden since. Taking advantage of his situation, Haseena got the property from her mother-in-law Rama after his accident. After a dispute, Ravi Kumar left her and has been living separately.

However, Haseena recently noticed some errors in the property documents.

As their rectification needs the signature of her husband and he would not heed her request, she hatched a plan to get his death certificate.

She then applied for a death certificate at the tahsildar office in 2019 stating that Ravi Kumar had died in 2017. The village revenue officer, revenue inspector and tahsildar concerned confirmed Ravi Kumar's death and

- She gets property of her mother-in-law transferred in her name after husband become bed-ridden following a serious accident
- Later, husband leaves her over disputes
- Finding some errors in the property documents which need her husband's signature, she gets fake death certificate from revenue officials
- The incident comes to light after her husband releases a video narrating his ordeal

issued proceedings. On the basis of those proceedings, she applied for a death certificate at Nandyal Municipal Corporation and obtained it. Haseena completed all the registration process and transferred the property to her name.

On learning of the issue, Ravi Kumar approached the media and narrated his woes.

He demanded action on officials concerned for issuing death certificates without verifying the facts. He suspects that officials had issue the certificate after receiving bribe from his wife.

Ravi Kumar demanded that the officials concerned initiate stringent action against his wife Haseena and others involved in this issue.

Govt allows political gatherings

Continued from P1

This relaxation was allowed from October 15, 2020, subject to certain conditions.

The Election Commission has announced the holding of the Bihar Assembly Election 2020. By-elections for one parliamentary constituency in Bihar and 28 Assembly constituencies are also being held along with nine other states.

"The state governments concerned may permit political gatherings, outside the containment zones, beyond the existing

limit of 100 persons on any date before October 15, 2020," the fresh order said. The Ministry ordered that this relaxation is limited to those Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies, where elections are to be held.

The local administration has to ensure that a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity is allowed for political gatherings in closed spaces. The maximum ceiling of persons in this is limited to 200. There has been no limit for political meetings in open spaces, the order said.

The ministry order said that the Covid protocols must be followed in all the scenarios. It must be ensured that people coming for gathering wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. The organizers must also make sure to keep a mandatory provision of thermal screening and hand wash or sanitizers.

The ministry ordered the state/UT governments to issue detailed SOPs to regulate such political gatherings and strictly enforce them.

CM protecting Jayaram in land fraud, says TDP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP on Thursday alleged that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was protecting labour minister Gummamuri Jayaram in the 203 acre land grab case registered by the Bangalore police.

Party official spokesperson Kommareddy Pattabhi speaking to media, warned that TDP would launch a direct action in

support of farmers of Aspiri in Kurnool district as they have a right to get back their lands as per the terms and conditions signed at the time of sale.

He said that the farmers sold their lands at just Rs 24,000 per acre to the Ittina Plantations. Their agreement was that the company opens an industry there and also provide one job each to the farmers' families in the village.

Delhi's air quality to deteriorate further

Continued from P1

"The boundary layer wind direction and speed are favourable for the transport of pollutants towards Delhi at present but a shift in the wind direction is forecasted which is likely to extend the moderate air quality condition for a few more days," the air quality forecasting system stated.

According to the data of the Central Pollution Control Board, out of 35 pollution monitoring stations, the air quality index in as many as 17 stations is in the poor category -- while 15 stations recorded the index in the moderate category, four were non-functional.

The area near the Delhi Technical University recorded the highest AQI at 290.

With stubble burning in northern states the air pollution reaches a crescendo in Delhi-NCR every winter, when pollutants combine with the suspended water droplets in the lower atmosphere to form a thick blanket of noxious smog, thus creating health hazards for the residents.

Officials told to identify new sand reaches

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Mines minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy directed the district collectors and other officials to identify and operate new sand reaches across the state to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

During a review meeting on the sand policy with the group of ministers (GOM) at camp office in Vijayawada, on Thursday, Mines minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said that the government has been using the latest technology to identify the potential sand reaches and

- New sand reaches to bridge the gap between supply and demand and to reduce the burden on the existing ones
- GOM asks officials to abide by all the environmental laws and rules while issuing permissions

suggested the officials take the advantage of this technology while giving permissions to the new sand reaches.

The GOM cautioned the officials to abide by all the environmental laws and rules while allowing the new sand reaches. The GOM ordered concerned authorities to give all



Panchayat raj, rural development and mines minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy speaking at the Group of Ministers in Vijayawada on Thursday

the necessary permissions for operating new sand reaches, in order to reduce the burden on existing ones.

The Ministers suggested the officials to consider each district as a unit, while estimating the demand and supply formula. In

order to have proper knowledge on availability of sand, the GOM directed the authorities to prepare comprehensive maps of all sand reaches in the districts. The joint collectors were asked to coordinate on it.

During discussion on the floods, the ministers asked the officials to clear the sand at all the stock points located on the banks of rivers, as soon as possible.

Ministers including Perni Nani, Kodali Nani along with principal secretary, mining department Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, and VC and MD, APMDC Harinarayan participated.

CM's Delhi visit only to foster state's interests, stresses Ambati

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: YSRCP Sattenapalli MLA Ambati Rambabu scoffed at the Opposition's claim on the visits of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to Delhi and asserted that the meeting with the Prime Minister was to foster the interests of the state and to seek funds.

Addressing the media at the party headquarters at Tadepalli on Thursday, Ambati Rambabu said, "It was ridiculous on the part of the TDP leaders to claim the Chief Minister had gone to Delhi to get the cases against him quashed" and he questioned whether it is possible for the Prime Minister to interfere in the judicial process. The Chief Minister met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss about the welfare of the state and to seek funds. There was no personal agenda behind the visit.

Despite Covid and other pressing issues, the Prime Minister spoke to Jagan for over 40 minutes as discussed several issues. The stories planted by the TDP in the friendly media need not be answered and there is no need to give a detailed account of the discussions held at Delhi between the two leaders. The salient features of the discussions were already told several times, he said.

Even as false cases were foisted, Jagan faced them and with people's mandate he became the Chief Minister. It was Chandrababu Naidu who left Hyderabad fearing cases after the cash for vote scam broke out, he recalled.

Though there was scope for having Hyderabad as joint capital for ten years, Naidu had run away from there and settled in Amaravati as he was afraid of cases, he said.

TODAY'S QUOTE

India yet to take a call on Chinese 5G vendors

India is yet to take a final call on allowing Chinese companies to participate in the 5G network rollout. My personal view is that we will go all out for 5G, but security will be a very, very major concern in 5G.

— Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant



ASSOCHAM

Economy showing signs of improvement

India's economy has shown a remarkable resilience in the last few months, braving the impact of the coronavirus pandemic with lead indicators such as manufacturing PMI and exports returning to growth trajectory, industry body Assocham said on Thursday.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.63	South	
Euro	90.44	African Rand	5.07
UAE Dirham	21.93	Hong Kong Dollar	10.87
Thai Baht	2.7	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	98.27	New Zealand Dollar	50.67
Australian Dollar	55.05	Saudi Riyal	21.46
Canadian Dollar	58.09	Swedish Krona	9.49
Swiss Franc	82.95	Singapore Dollar	56.61

DELHI FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

MG Gloster SUV unveiled

Hyderabad: MG Motor India on Thursday said it has launched a premium SUV Gloster priced between Rs 28.98 lakh and Rs 35.38 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The two-wheel-drive trims of the model are priced at Rs 28.98 lakh and Rs 30.98 lakh while four-wheel drive variants are tagged at Rs 33.68 lakh, Rs 33.98 lakh and Rs 35.38 lakh, respectively. The Gloster comes powered with 2-litre turbo diesel powertrain mated with eight-speed automatic transmission and features first level autonomous features. "We believe that Gloster will establish a new benchmark while combining matchless luxury, technology, and off-roading experience in its segment," MG Motor India President and Managing Director Rajeev Chaba said.

Suryoday Bank disburses loan

Hyderabad: Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB), a small finance bank, announced disbursement of its first loan under Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (PM SVA Nidhi). The loan of Rs 10,000 as mandated in the scheme was disbursed to a vegetable vendor. The Bank ensured that the complete process of sanctioning the loan and withdrawal was digital and hassle free. R Baskar Babu, MD & CEO Suryoday Small Finance Bank, said: "We take great pride in being a part of the PM's vision of providing small working capital loans to street vendors under the PM SVA Nidhi scheme, which is aimed at creating an Atmanirbhar ecosystem and helping them to bounce back after the crisis caused by the pandemic". The bank has a deposit base of nearly Rs 3,000 crore in deposit book and a gross loan portfolio of around Rs 3,700 crore.

Blood.live launched

Hyderabad: Bharath HealthCare P Limited, Health technology division of city-based Kotli Group, launched Blood.live, a real-time lifesaving platform with a core purpose of empowering crores of people across the world to save lives of family, friends, people around us who are fighting for life in the need of blood in real-time. The app which is available free of cost on both Android and iOS platforms enables us to raise a need of blood anytime anywhere in India and across the world. This technologically sophisticated platform can be used like any other real-time platforms such as Ola, Uber. Dr. Kotli Reddy Saripalli, founder Chairman of Kotli Group, said: "We are a deep rooted innovation company core purposed to empower people through our technological innovations in agritech, constructiontech, edutech, fintech, healthtech, mediatech & qualitytech".

Mahindra Treo sales cross 5k

Hyderabad: Mahindra Electric Mobility on Thursday said its electric three-wheeler range Treo has crossed the 5,000 units sales mark in the country and claimed it has become India's first lithium-ion-operated three-wheeler to achieve the feat. The Treo range is powered by advanced lithium-ion battery technology with a life of over 1.50 lakh kilometres. "The Mahindra Treo range has crossed a remarkable sales milestone of 5,000 units and is currently being sold in over 400 districts across the country," said Mahindra Electric Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Mahesh Babu. He added that cumulatively, the Treo has travelled a distance of over 35 million km on Indian roads, saving 1,925 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide tailpipe emissions.

'India can lead 4th industrial revolution'

Country's richest man Ambani says Jio has been designed to help India lead in that space

New Delhi: Having missed most of the first three industrial revolutions, India has its chance to lead the fourth industrial revolution through a convergence of its IT prowess, ultra-high-speed internet connectivity and affordable smart devices, billionaire Mukesh Ambani said on Thursday.

The richest Indian man, who heads the nation's most valuable company Reliance Industries Ltd, said his group's telecom and digital unit Jio was conceived to provide the key ingredients needed to lead the fourth industrial revolution.

India missed the first two industrial revolutions and the changes brought about by them. During the third industrial revolution, where information technology came to prominence, India joined the race but still remained behind, trying to catch up with the leaders.

"As we step into the fourth industrial revolution, India has the opportunity, not just to catch up with the leaders but to emerge as a global leader itself," he said at TM Forum's Digital Transformation World Series. The fourth industrial revolution, he said, is

As we step into the fourth industrial revolution, India has the opportunity, not just to catch up with the leaders but to emerge as a global leader itself

— Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani



driven by the convergence of digital and physical technologies such as digital connectivity, cloud and edge-computing, IoT and smart devices, artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain, AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality) and genomics. "And the three foundational requirements needed to participate in this revolution are ultra-high-speed connectivity, affordable smart devices and transformational digital apps. Jio was conceived to enable this journey," he said. Before Jio, India was stuck with 2G technology. "Jio wanted to end India's

data misery and unleash a digital revolution," he said.

"We built a world-class, all-IP, future-proof digital network that delivers the highest speeds and the best coverage across India".

While it took 25 years for the Indian telecom industry to build its 2G network, Jio built its 4G network in only three years. "And to ensure widespread adoption of data, we launched with the lowest data tariffs in the world and made voice services completely free for Jio users," he said adding JioPhone made

smartphones affordable. "That provided a window to the world of limitless possibilities for over 100 million Indians in less than a year," he said.

Jio also offered a bouquet of mobile apps and data at a dirt-cheap rate. The result was Jio added 7 customers per second and India's monthly data consumption went up from 0.2 billion GB to 1.2 billion GB, a growth of 600 per cent.

"Today, India consumes over 6 exabytes of data every month, more than 30 times pre-Jio levels, just four years ago," he said.

"We have gone from 155th in the world to number one in mobile data consumption in just four years."

Stating that Jio shattered the widely held belief that India is not ready to adopt advanced technologies, Ambani said the country will play a leading role in the fourth industrial revolution.

To further extend our global leadership in connectivity, Jio is

now rolling out a high-speed, low-latency optical fiber network to more than 50 million homes and premises. Also, Jio is preparing for rolling out 5G services across India.

Ambani said Jio Platforms, the group's digital solutions arm, has built significant capabilities in areas like cloud computing, big data analytics, AI and machine learning, blockchain, AR/VR and IoT.

"Using these technologies, Jio Platforms is in the process of creating compelling solutions for multiple industry verticals and ecosystems spanning telecom, media and entertainment, newCommerce, financial services, education, healthcare and agriculture," he said.

The fourth industrial revolution presents a unique opportunity to create unprecedented value and prosperity and "we must invest in building next-generation technology assets," he said. "We must root out inefficiencies across the digital ecosystem. We must break silos and forge winning partnerships. Only then can we build and sustain a truly digital society," he added.

BoM organises virtual MSME outreach meet

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), Hyderabad Zone, conducted virtual MSME outreach programme on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by more than 140 MSME customers from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, apart from bank staff.

The inaugural address was delivered by bank's Zonal Manager Divesh Dinkar. He highlighted efforts taken by the bank and support extended to customers of the zone during pandemic through Covid-19 Adhoc credit and GECL facilities. Mahesh Dange, AGM, CPC-C, presented competitive features of various MSME & retail products of the banks. The meet was addressed by Sanjay

Rudra, bank's GM, MSME & Large Corporate, HO, who highlighted critical role of MSMEs in building the economy of the country and various



initiatives taken by BoM for the support of MSMEs including LMS, TReDS, cluster financing, channel financing, etc.

The participating MSME units which included women entrepreneurs, restructured MSME units shared their experiences on the platform and thanked the bank and GoI for its services and credit support during the critical period.

Banks sanction ₹1.87 lakh cr loans to MSMEs

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Thursday said banks have sanctioned loans of about Rs 1,87,579 crore to 50.7 lakh business units under the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector impacted by slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Of this, about 27 lakh MSME units received cumulative disbursement of Rs 1,36,140 crore till October 5. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the Rs 20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress caused by lockdown due to Covid-19 by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Sensex reclaims 40,000 mark

Adds 303 pts as TCS leads IT pack higher; Nifty up 96 pts

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex rallied for the sixth straight day to reclaim the 40,000-mark on Thursday, with IT shares hogging the limelight after robust results from TCS indicated that the worst may be over for the software services industry.

After soaring over 400 points during the day, the 30-share benchmark ended 303.72 points, or 0.76 per cent, higher at 40,182.67. The Sensex has closed above the crucial 40,000-mark after February 25 this year. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 95.75 points, or 0.82 per cent, to finish at 11,834.60. UltraTech Cement topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.24 per cent, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma and Tech Mahindra.

India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has reported a 4.9 per cent rise in consolidated net



profit to Rs 8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter, and also announced a share buyback plan of up to Rs 16,000 crore.

On the other hand, ONGC, ITC, Reliance Industries, L&T, PowerGrid and Asian Paints were among the major laggards, shedding up to 2.84 per cent. RIL came under selling pressure after Amazon.com Inc slapped a legal notice on Future Group over its Rs 24,713 crore asset sale to the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate. "A good start to Q2 result led

by the IT and banking sector, along with positive announcements like buyback has lifted the market. At the same time, expectation of a stimulus in India and the US has improved," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sector-wise, the BSE IT, tech, healthcare, telecom and bankex indices spurred up to 2.99 per cent, while energy, oil and gas, capital goods and industrials closed in the red. In the broader markets, the BSE midcap index gained 0.29 per cent, while the smallcap gauge tumbled 0.26 per cent.

Global equities were boosted by hopes of a piecemeal stimulus package in the US, even as President Donald Trump has called off negotiations for a wider pandemic relief deal. In Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong closed with losses.

LAKSHMI VILAS BANK GETS MERGER OFFER

Following this, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed a three-member team to run the bank under Meeta Makhan as chairperson and Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra as members.



In an exchange filing on Thursday, the bank's Chief Financial Officer K Hariharan said, "Further to the process of considering and evaluating the proposed amalgamation with Clix Capital Services, Clix Finance and

Clix Housing Finance, we are glad to inform that the bank has received an indicative non-binding offer from the Clix Group." The filing did not elaborate that.

The Clix Group is backed by the private equity major Aion Capital. On September 15, LVB said it had agreed for an amalgamation with the mid-sized non-banking lender Clix Capital Group in an all-share deal. Earlier, the bank had tried to merge with Srei Capital and then with Indiabulls Housing Finance, but the RBI objected to the merger proposals.

Mercedes rolls out electric SUV at ₹99.3 lakh

New Delhi: German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz on Thursday kicked off its electric vehicles journey in India with the launch of EQC model at an introductory price of Rs 99.30 lakh. The all-electric SUV, which is the first product under Mercedes-Benz EQ brand, is powered by a 80 kWh lithium-ion battery with a range of 445-471 km on a single charge. The company claims that the EQC has a power consumption of 20.8-19.7 kWh/100 km. It has two electric motors at the front and rear axles with a combined output of 408hp and can accelerate from 0-100 km/hr in 5.1 seconds, the company said.



Canara HSBC OBC Life partners with APGB

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance, an insurer, on Thursday announced its alliance with Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (APGB). The distribution tie-up is for selling life insurance, health and pension products at all APGB branches.

The partnership with the bank will also provide an opportunity for the insurance major to create awareness in the rural market about the need of having life insurance, health insurance and pension plans in these unprecedented times. The company aims to reach out to the rural areas and help the population to financially secure their future.

To start with, insurance will offer 20 insurance products (majorly traditional insurance) to the customers of APGB. The partnership is expected to strengthen the insurance penetration in Tier 2 and 3 markets of Rayalaseema.



Unemployment top challenge for biz leaders

WEF survey reveals 'infectious diseases' emerged as the second-most recurring risk

New Delhi: 'Unemployment' is the main concern for business executives globally, followed by 'infectious diseases' that progressed by 28 spots to emerge as the second-most recurring risk, according to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) interactive map on 'Regional Risks for Doing Business 2020'.

Fiscal crisis - the top concern in 2019 - came in third among the top risks cited by business leaders globally. 'Infectious diseases' progressed by 28 spots, appearing in the top-10 risks in all regions except South Asia, in a year where the Covid-19 pandemic dominated global



health concerns.

The survey pulls 30 risks, including terrorist attacks, extreme weather events and state collapse or crisis. Surveyed regions include East Asia and the Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East

and North Africa, North America, South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa.

The findings are based on a survey of over 12,000 business leaders from 127 countries. The data is released ahead of the World Economic Forum's inaugural

Jobs Reset Summit (October 20-23) which aims to shape inclusive, fair and sustainable economies, societies and workplaces. While the top risks are mostly related to economics, climate-related risks are causing greater concern this year, with natural catastrophes (up seven places), extreme weather events (up five), biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse (up eight), and failure of climate-change adaptation (up two) featuring more prominently, according to the survey. Other significant changes include human-made environmental catastrophes (down six places),

failure of urban planning (down seven), and terrorist attacks (down nine).

"The employment disruptions caused by the pandemic, rising automation and the transition to greener economies are fundamentally changing labour markets," said Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director at the World Economic Forum. She added that as we emerge from the crisis, leaders have a remarkable opportunity to create new jobs, support living wages, and re-imagine social safety nets to adequately meet the challenges in the labour markets of tomorrow

Trust deficit stymies property survey

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The property owners in districts are hesitating to give the details of their properties to the personnel, who are taking up survey for making the details online. The authorities are taking up details of properties through the non-agricultural properties (NAP) mobile application. The personnel involved in the survey are uploading the details as and when they are collecting the information. However, they are facing problems due to the network issues. According to locals, the personnel are collecting information as per the questionnaire in the application and entire data is getting erased because of non-availability of network especially in the rural areas where network is the major issue.

With technical glitches, the authorities of municipalities and Gram Panchayats are taking the details manually during the day time and later uploading the same on the systems during the evening time. Sources said that this process is time consuming and the officials expected that the government would extend time.

However, the villagers are puzzled with the questions and objecting to surveyors taking measurements of the properties. They are afraid that they may have to face difficulties later and are questioning why they want the details again when the government had already taken their de-

- Owners hesitate to give information to officials seeking details of property for uploading on Dharani portal

- “Why should we give the details to a third person,” said Kishan, demanding the government to provide an online facility to upload details on the website



tails during the Samagra Kumbha Survey.

B Karthik of Rajapet mandal in Yadadri district said that the surveyors are asking about the legal heirs. “They are saying that the government will consider the names of legal heirs only if we mention them now. They are also

saying that if we do not include the names now the government will not recognise their successors as legal heirs,” rued Karthik.

Another property owner in Zaheerabad, Sangem Kishan said that the government should have made the process online. “Why should we give the details to a

third person,” said Kishan, demanding the government to provide an online facility to upload details on the website.

Meanwhile, the government has given directions to the officials to have an additional internet line in the MRO offices especially for the Dharani portal.



Congress workers and NSUI activists led by AICC secretary S A Sampath laying siege to Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali's camp office in Ministers Quarters in Hyderabad on Thursday

Cong lays siege to HM office, protesting partymen detained

They were demanding resignation of Home Minister for rape incidents in the State

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Demanding resignation of Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali for rising incidents of atrocities against woman in the State, Congress and NSUI leaders forced themselves into the Ministers Quarters in Banjara Hills on Thursday. The leaders led by former MLA and AICC secretary S A Sampath laid siege to Mahmood Ali's camp office in Ministers Quarters. Even as the security officials at the Ministers Quarters tried to stop them, the group barged through the main entrance and shouted slogans that

reached the official residence of the Minister. They continued sloganeering while demanding the resignation of Mahmood Ali, within a day after the TS government declared itself to be safest when compared to other States like UP when it came to the security of women.

TPCC Minorities department chairman Shaik Abdullah Sohail, Youth Congress State president Anil Kumar Yadav and NSUI State president B Venkat and others took part in the protest. Speaking on the occasion, Sampath questioned the KCR's bragging about maintaining law & order at Wednesday's high-level

meeting with police officials. “As reports of rapes have become a regular phenomenon and a TRS leader was accused in one such case, where teenage victim committed suicide in Moinabad recently. It is high time that the victims get proper justice or Home Minister should step down,” demanded Sampath.

Later, they were arrested and sent to Cherlapally Central prison. Meanwhile, Home Minister telephoned Sampath Kumar and assured that the accused involved in Moinabad, Khammam and other cases would be dealt with an iron hand to ensure it provides a lesson to others.

Film director Shekar Kammula joins Green India Challenge

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Noted Telugu film director and National Film Awardee Shekar Kammula participated in Green India Challenge launched by TRS general secretary and MP J Santosh Kumar. Shekar Kammula planted trees on either side of roads at Kankamudi village, Moinabad mandal while shooting for his new film “Love Story”. He appreciated the Rajya Sabha MP for creating awareness on environment protection. The film director asked all the ‘Love Story’ unit to participate in the challenge.



State turning a blind eye to EWS quota norm: BJP

Party State secretary alleges that annually 60,000 EWS candidates are denied seats in various courses

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Bharatiya Janata Party State secretary Dugyala Pradeep Kumar alleged that annually about 60,000 candidates belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in Telangana were losing opportunities in admission to various courses.

On Thursday, he demanded the State government to immediately implement the 10 per cent EWS reservation in Telangana.

He said that the Centre has brought a constitutional amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to the EWS candidates.

However, the State government has not notified the implementation of the same in Telangana. In turn, it is causing irreparable loss to the EWS candidates in the admission and job opportunities.

Pradeep Kumar said that about 60,000 candidates belonging to EWS had lost opportunities in admission to various courses last year.

It is being repeated during the current academic year, he said. He reminded that the EWS reservation benefitted several candidates in getting admissions into central universities and schools, besides, the JEE Advanced-2020 results announced recently.

With the sole exception of medical stream, he said that there were 6,26,569 seats available in Telangana, including seats in law, pharmacy, engineering, polytechnic, management, computer sciences, degree, agriculture, ITI, IIIT- Basara, TS residential colleges and the postgraduate courses.

The BJP leader said that the EWS candidates were also deprived of opportunities in jobs and livelihood. He warned that the party would launch a Statewide agitation if the State government fails to take steps to implement the EWS reservations from the current academic year.

SFI demands reconduct of NEET

Hyderabad: Telangana State SFI has demanded the government to reconduct the NEET 2020.

SFI state president R L Murthy, and secretary T Nagaraju on Thursday said that students appeared for the NEET-2020 are worried. This was following the alleged discrepancies in the conduct of the test has come to the fore.

The duo said that students have raised concerns about the severe mismatches in their answer sheets. As they found out discrepancies after National Testing Agency (NTA) published the OMR answer sheets online on October 5.

Some students found their OMR sheets altered and exchanged with some other candidates. Also, shockingly their signature on the OMR sheets was forged.

A classic case of mismanagement of conducting the tests has come out following a student from

Gujarat found her 91 answers being manipulated. She had to spend Rs 91,000 to challenge it with NTA.

Also, an invigilator allegedly asked a student to not fill their OMR sheets and instead write the answers in another paper fearing COVID. Murthy said that earlier there were allegations about the involvement of agents posing as NTA officials, asking sums of money from students to manipulate their OMR sheets.

Several students have received telephone calls in their registered mobile numbers with NTA for fudging the NEET marks. This indicates the grave nature of student data breach from NTA.

The SFI demanded that intervention of the Centre to declare new dates for the conduct a re-examination of NEET-2020. Also, give another opportunity to the students who missed the examination after testing positive for Covid-19.

CBI raids properties of YSRCP MP in connection with ₹ 826 cr fraud

The accused diverted the funds with an intention to loot the banks which they sought to operate a power plant

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The officials of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday carried out searches at the properties of YSRCP MP K Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju. The searches were conducted by the CBI officials of Delhi and Hyderabad at 11 locations in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

According to CBI officials, the agency has lodged a fresh FIR against the MP regarding Rs 826 crore fraud under cheating, criminal misappropriation and 10 other accused persons linked to the Ind-Barath Thermal Power Ltd.

The issue came to light when the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and other consortium banks filed a complaint against the accused and stated that the accused had cheated the PNB-led consortium banks by way of diversion/siphoning off bank funds etc. Based on the complaint, the CBI raided 11 places belonging to the MP and his relatives and associates.

The CBI named K Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju, Ramadevi (wife of Krishnam Raju), K Indira Priyadarshini (daughter of the MP), Bopanna Sowjanya, V Satyanarayana Rao Vadlamani, Visspragada Peeraju,

Gopalan Manoharan, K Seetaram, B Prasad, N Kumara Swamy and the management of Ind-Barath Thermal Power company.

The CBI officials stated that the accused persons named in the FIR had obtained a loan from the PNB and its consortium banks which include SBI, Indian Overseas Bank and Axis Bank to operate a power plant in Karnataka and later on, they shifted it to Tutikorin in Tamil Nadu. However, later they diverted the funds with an intention to loot the banks and in this regard, the searches were conducted at the properties involving the MP and others.

Trainee pilot commits suicide

Hyderabad: A trainee pilot undergoing training at Hakimpet air force academy allegedly committed suicide on Thursday. The trainee was identified as Akash, a native of Kerala. According to Alwal police, they received a call from the academy stating that the trainee pilot had committed suicide by hanging himself. Upon receiving the complaint, the CLUES team and dog squad team rushed to the spot. Preliminary investigations revealed that the trainee was going through depression due to personal issues, but the exact cause of committing suicide is not yet known, said the police. However, his body has been shifted to Osmania mortuary for post mortem and once the autopsy report is given the case will be further investigated, said the police.

Engg student dies as hair gets tangled in go-kart

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: A BTech student died while go-karting after her hair got tangled in the wheels of go-kart. The accident took place at the go-karting play zone located in Meerpet on Wednesday.

According to police, she suffered grievous head injuries when she was driving the Quadra Cycle (Open wheel car) at the playzone on Wednesday evening.

The student was identified as Sri Varshini, a student of B.Tech final year who went to Go Karting along with her family. As she got into the open car the operators kept a helmet on her head and also fastened the seat belts.

However, the tragedy struck when her seatbelt loosened due to technical error after which her head got banged on the headrest of the seat leading her hair to get caught in it and she was unable to get rid of it as the speed of the car was very high. She then suffered a severe head injury and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, but was declared dead on arrival.

The parents of the girls alleged that their daughter died because of the negligence of the management of Go Karting. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case of negligence against the management and the matter is being investigated.



Sri Varshini

2 chain snatchers arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Madhapur police on Thursday arrested two notorious chain snatchers who were involved in multiple chain snatching offences. The accused were identified as Afroze Khan and Md Amir.

According to police, both the accused were regular offenders and were also involved in doing odd jobs for their survival. But due to the insufficient earnings they used to commit robberies and for this reason the accused

duo would initially do a reeve of the area before committing the offence and after finalising the location, they would wait for a soft target for committing the offence.

In this way, they committed multiple offences but were finally arrested on Thursday when they snatched a gold chain from a woman a few days ago and based on the CCTV footage gained, we were able to nab the accused persons, said the police.

They were also remanded to judicial custody.

Amberpet TRS leaders indulge in war of words

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: After the Goshamahal leaders, the TRS leaders from Amberpet indulged in heated arguments at a meeting organised by MLA K Venkatesh on Thursday. The TRS leaders got divided into two groups and hurled abuses on each other in the presence of MLA Venkatesh and the temporary observer of the party, P Karthik Reddy. Leaders from one of the groups were angry over the Amberpet division corporator alleging that he was go-

- The TRS leaders got divided into two groups and hurled abuses on each other in the presence of MLA Venkatesh
- Tthis is the second such incident within a week where the TRS leaders openly fought

ing against the party line. They wanted the party to give tickets in GHMC polls to people who were part of the Telangana agitation. According to party leaders, while the party leaders from both the groups were trying to explain their problems, the MLA left the meeting saying that this meeting was not for se-

lection of candidates. The MLA said that selection of candidates would be done by the party high command. This is the second such incident within a week where the TRS leaders were openly involved in a fight. Earlier, the party leaders in Goshamahal fought in front of Home Minister Md Mahmood Ali.

No limpy skin disease in TS, confirm vets

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The veterinary doctors on Thursday allayed apprehensions about ‘limpy skin disease’ amongst the cattle, after people started widely sharing messages on social media. The veterinarians from Greater Hyderabad, who inspected the cattle at a slaughterhouse at Ramnasthura, along with president of Jamiat-ul-Quraish (Hyderabad) & TS Wakf Board chairman Md Saleem concluded that there was no limpy skin disease in the State. Speaking to the media persons, Dr

Srinivas Reddy (Assistant Director, GHMC), Dr Ashok and Dr Sadguna Devi requested the public not to panic about the limpy skin disease. They pointed out that not a single case of this disease has been reported in Telangana. The doctors said they were taking all kinds of precautionary measures and checking the cattle before they were slaughtered. “Government is taking all steps to vaccinate cattle, and people can consume meat, beef without any fear,” the doctors said, pointing out that in 2012 limpy skin disease was found in African countries.

FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic, Kvitova enter semis



Paris (IANS): Novak Djokovic and Petra Kvitová have entered the semifinals on the ongoing French Open after registering contrasting wins in their respective quarterfinal matches. In the men's singles event, Djokovic, despite visibly struggling with his left arm early on Wednesday evening, defeated Pablo CarrenoBusta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 in three hours and 10 minutes to make it to his 10th semi-final at the Roland Garros.

"Well, I definitely didn't feel great coming into the court today," the Serbian admitted after the match. "Few things happened in the warm-up. I had to deal with those physical issues coming onto the court. As the match went on, I felt better, didn't feel as much pain."

"But I don't want to take away anything from his good performance. Especially for a set and a half he was the better player, dictating the play. I was very neutral. I didn't have much energy really happening in my legs or movement or game itself," he added.

The world number one will next face Stefanos Tsitsipas, who ousted Hamburg European Open champion Andrey Rublev in straight sets. In other men's singles semifinal, 12-time champion Rafael Nadal will lock horns with Diego Schwartzman.

Meanwhile, in the women's singles event, Kvitová booked her place in the last four following a 6-3, 6-3 win over Laura Siegemund in 78 minutes.

The seventh seed, who is yet to drop a set this fortnight, was impressive against Siegemund as she claimed 77 per cent of her first-serve points and converted five of 10 break points.

"I think I'm still same clay

player as I was before, but I just think that I find those conditions here and I'm still mentally tough," Kvitová said. "I mean, I played indoor, outdoor, sun, wind, whatever, rain, whatever happens... I think eight years ago I think it was everything, you know, kind of (the) same, same weather."

Kvitová will face this year's Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin for a place in a maiden Roland-Garros final.

In other semifinal, Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska, who had defeated third seed Elina Svitolina, will compete against Polish teenager Iga Swiatek.

Paris Masters to go ahead as planned

Paris (IANS): The French Tennis Federation (FFT) has confirmed that the Paris Masters 2020, scheduled to be held from October 31 to November 8 at the Accor Arena, will go ahead.

1,000 spectators will be allowed per day to comply with the current restrictions applicable in Paris amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the tournament organisers said in a statement on their official Twitter handle.

World number one Novak Djokovic is the defending champion as he had defeated

Canada's Denis Shapovalov in the summit clash. The ongoing French Open grand slam is allowing 5,000 spectators per day. 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 French Open was originally scheduled to start in May but had to be moved back because of the outbreak of novel coronavirus. It started on September 27 and will end on October 11.



Paddikal, Bishnoi have shown great character: Nehra

Dubai (IANS): Former Indian pacer Ashish Nehra is mighty impressed with the performance of youngsters Devdutt Padikkal and Ravi Bishnoi in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Padikkal, who is playing for the Royal Challengers Bangalore, has been in great form so far, amassing 178 runs in the five innings he has played. Bishnoi, on the other hand, is plying his trade with Kings XI Punjab and he has been able to scalp four wickets in five innings he has bowled.

"Ravi Bishnoi and Devdutt Padikkal, both have shown great character. As I said earlier, I would've liked Parthiv Patel to open, but that is out of the picture now. Looking at the future, I am impressed by Devdutt Padikkal and Ravi Bishnoi's performance," said Nehra while speaking on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

Meanwhile, former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar heaped praised on SunRisers Hyderabad pacer T Natarajan, who has scalped five wickets in five innings. Bangar, in particular, has been impressed with Natarajan's ability to bowl yorkers which in turn has sorted out the death bowling issue for SunRisers.

"The yorker ball is the most difficult ball in this format, and that too when the ball is wet, despite that T Natarajan bowled in the previous match and sorted out SRH's death bowling issue," said Bangar.

"I am really impressed by Natarajan. He is looking in good form and Natarajan will be my player of choice who has impressed me in the IPL," he added.

Kings XI Punjab will take on SunRisers Hyderabad at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday evening.

KKR's mystery spinner Chakravarthy finally delivers

Abu Dhabi (IANS): It is not just the fast bowlers who hunt in pairs. In T20 cricket or Indian Premier League (IPL) to be precise, bowlers with mystery spin too hunt in pairs.

The art of bowling mystery spin had long been the forte of Sunil Narine at Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). But youngster Varun Chakravarthy is fast catching up.

On Wednesday against Chennai Super Kings, Chakravarthy helped turn the game around for KKR by removing MS Dhoni with a delivery that was shaping up to be a leg-break but went straight on as the India legend went down to slog-sweep him to the boundary. CSK were in the game at that stage needing 39 off 22 balls before Dhoni fell. Chakravarthy, a leg-spinner, then bowled three dot balls to increase the required run rate before

CSK succumbed to pressure and fell short of the target by 10 runs at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

The Tamil Nadu leg-spinner, who has got a second wind this IPL season after missing the last season -- his first -- due to an injury,



may soon snatch away the role of lead spinner from Narine at KKR.

In an earlier game against Delhi Capitals, he had proved his worth, taking a wicket and conceding just 13 in the two powerplay overs at the Sharjah ground that has small boundaries. In contrast, the Trinidadian conceded 15 in the only over he bowled in the phase. Narine though bowled well against CSK.

Although Chakravarthy has picked just five wickets in four games -- giving away runs at just over eight, it is the manner in which he has scalped his victims that has caught the eye. He is, through his performance, proving he is worth the Rs 4 crore that

KKR has shelled out on him.

Last year, the 29-year-old earned a whopping Rs 8.4 crore from Kings XI Punjab on the back of his performances in Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) but was later laid low by the injury. He could play just one game in last year's edition. This year, he is back, but in different colours and his wickets will only add to his reputation.

A few wickets by him this season show how good he has been. Against SunRisers Hyderabad, he deceived David Warner with a delivery that went straight on despite the delivery shaping up like a leg-break. Then, against Rajasthan Royals, he got rid of Rahul Tewatia with a googly that turned sharply from the leg and pegged back the middle-stump. Against Delhi Capitals, he bowled a top-spinner with a leg-cutter grip.

Chakravarthy possesses a leg-break, a carrom ball, off-spinner, flipper and top-spinner in his repertoire. While most leg-spinners have variety, deception and bounce make him a bit different from others on the Indian circuit.

DC vs RR: Will be focussing on executing our skills, says Harshal

Sharjah (IANS): As Delhi Capitals prepare to face Rajasthan Royals in their sixth game of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, all-rounder Harshal Patel has stated that his team's focus is always on execution regardless of whom they face.

Delhi Capitals have registered four wins out of the five games they have played so far and are sitting pretty at the second spot in the points table.

"I think every team in the IPL is extremely competitive and that's why the quality of cricket is unparalleled. So when it comes to players like Jos Buttler, Steve Smith or (Sanju) Samson, you just have to focus on executing your skill. You do the planning in your team meetings and when you get onto the field - it's all about execution," said Harshal on Thursday.

Commenting on what his team has been focusing on improving ahead of their clash against Rajasthan - a team languishing at the



bottom of the table, Harshal said they want to ensure that small mistakes are closed out.

"We're just talking about how we can get better - even though the last game we put on quite a clinical performance but the conversation has always been around what else we can do to get better, what else we can do to close out the small mistakes that we're making," the all-rounder said.

"We just want to get better as the tournament progresses.

Everyone who's been around in the IPL knows that the second half of IPL is one of the most difficult parts of the tournament. So we don't want to get complacent, we don't want to relax - we just want to keep our focus and try to get better by putting in the efforts," he added.

TODAY'S MATCH

Rajasthan Royals vs Delhi Capitals at 7.30pm

Two-month shooting camp for Olympic probables from October 15

New Delhi (IANS): A two-month coaching camp for the Olympic core group shooters will be held at Karni Singh Shooting Range in the national capital from October 15 to December 14. India have won a record 15 quotas in shooting for the Tokyo Olympics and can still obtain quotas on the basis of world rankings.

All Olympic quota winners will be a part of the camp which will take place at a total cost of Rs 1.43 crores. The camp will comprise of 32 shooters (18 men and 14 women), 8 coaches, 3 foreign coaches and two support staff.

"It is imperative to have a camp because it is an integral part of the preparation for an event like the Olympics. The camp will be conducted following the SAI SOP," said Sports Authority of India in a statement. Rifle shooter Anjum Moudgil, a silver medalist at the 2018 World Championships which earned her a Tokyo Olympic quota, is happy to be returning to a camp environment which will help her assess where she stands. "It is very good that SAI and NRAI have decided to hold this camp which will give us much needed practice with just 10 months to go for the Olympics. Regular shooting in a camp environment will give us a better idea of where we currently stand."



Dubai (IANS): Star Indian batswoman Smriti Mandhana has dropped down by a spot and is ranked at the fourth position in the latest ICC ODI rankings. Former captain Mithali Raj has, however, maintained her 10th position in the list led by Australia skipper Meg Lanning.

Lanning has recaptured the top

ICC ODI RANKINGS

Mandhana drops to No. 4, Mithali stays at 10

position for batters after playing a leading role in her side's 3-0 white-wash of New Zealand in Brisbane that saw the six-time world champions to a record 21 consecutive wins in the format.

The 28-year-old aggregated 163 runs in two matches, including a Player of the Match performance of 101* in the second match at the Allan Border Field, which helped her advance four places and dislodge West Indies captain Stafanie

Taylor from the top.

This is the fifth time that Lanning has grabbed the top spot, the last occasion being in October 2018. She has been number one for a total of 902 days since the first time in November 2014.

In the bowlers' rankings, Jhulan Goswami is the highest-ranked Indian, currently occupying the fifth spot. She is followed by Poonam Yadav (6th) and Shikha Pandey (7th) who both have moved up by



a spot in the list. Deepti Sharma has maintained her 10th position in the table topped by left-arm Australian spinner Jess Jonassen who scalped eight wickets against the White Ferns.

In the list of all-rounders, Deepti and Shikha have maintained their respective fourth and ninth positions respectively.

How Parul Parmar fought polio & became para-badminton world champion

New Delhi (IANS): Parul Parmar, who was diagnosed with polio at a young age, had incurred a serious injury when she was three years old, but with grit and determination she rose to the top of world para-badminton. The 47-year-old overcame her disability to defy all odds and become a BWF Para-Badminton World Championships gold medalist in 2017.

"When I was three years old, I got to know that I was afflicted with polio in my right leg. A few months later I fell down from a swing at home and fractured my collar bone and right leg. Thereafter, my entire body was plastered," Parul said while speaking during the seventh



episode of 'The Finish Line', hosted by Saurav Ghosal. "Once the plaster was removed, the doctor told me and my family that I should exercise as much as possible. My father used to play badminton at a

gymkhana in Gandhinagar and therefore my mother decided that even I should go to the gymkhana along with my father so that I will get the belief that even I can play the sport and carry out regular ex-

ercise," she added. The Arjuna Awardee, who won both singles and doubles at the World Championships, also spoke about the only thing she always felt pressured by. "I always felt the pressure whenever I have been sponsored by a company or anybody else. After going into a tournament after being sponsored by somebody, I always felt the pressure of delivering results for the sponsors," said the badminton player.

"When I took part in tournaments through my own funds, then I didn't get tensed about losing. I always wanted to give back something to the sponsors through my results," she added.



Valencia (IANS): Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei and Letesenbet Gidey of Ethiopia have smashed world records over 10,000m and 5,000m respectively at Valencia meeting which had been billed as 'World Record Day' by organisers.

On Wednesday evening, Gidey was the first to go into the annals of athletics history with a stunning 5,000m run of 14:06.62 to take more than four seconds off the mark of 14:11.15 by her compatriot and idol Tirunesh Dibaba which had stood since 2008.

"I have been dreaming about this (setting a world record) for six years," Gidey was quoted as saying by the World Athletics website.

Gidey became the third successive Ethiopian to hold the 5,000m world record following Meseret Defar and Tirunesh Dibaba as a prelude to Cheptegei's feat.

Cheptegei, meanwhile, covered 10,000m in 26:11.00 to break Kenenisa Bekele's mark of 26:17.53, set in Brussels in 2005.

"I wanted to live up to expectations so I'm happy to achieve my dream," said Cheptegei, who now becomes the 10th man in history to hold the 5,000m and 10,000m world records concurrently. "I was trying to remake history so that people will have something to enjoy. Sport lovers of the world can have something to remember," he added.