

Womenia

LESS LIPSTICK, MORE EYELINER

By making masks, sanitisers and gloves an indispensable accessory in day-to-day life, Kajals, eyeliners and mascaras are new upcoming beauty trends due to COVID-19 safety precautions. Skin is weakened by repeating hand wash; mandatory use of masks and so people are becoming more skin-care conscious. Skin health has been a major trend during the year 2020 resulting in healthier, more radiant skin.

While the makeup habits of the majority of women have still not changed however Women are simply wearing less makeup in comparison to pre COVID-19 times. Makeup is known not only to enhance our external features but also give us a lot of confidence and positivity from within. For women, makeup is art. It is a therapy and allows women to express themselves freely. Since face masks cover a significant portion of face features, makeup enthusiasts are learning to adapt their beauty routines.

As a result, those with more sensitive/oily skin have been facing the skin related complications, like acne breakouts, flare-ups of eczema or rosacea, or general skin irritation. With masks on, our basic skincare and makeup regime have also changed. Women now rely on their eyes to communicate. Colourful lashes and graphic liner can match or complement the natural eye colour and even coordinate with facial coverings.

You can still apply light cosmetic products above the mask line, but any skin that is covered by the mask should be left free from any makeup or at least the lower face as much as possible.

Since our skin needs a little breathing space too, therefore, try to switch to a cloth mask with cotton, bamboo, or natural silk ear loops which won't cause skin burns or irritation. Make sure to wash your cloth mask regularly and sanitize it appropriately. Face coverings properly fashioned out of these materials might be an effective barrier to aerosol particle and other harmful pollutants in the environment.



Shahnaz Husain

Many multinational companies are selling fashionable, attractive synthetic fibres like polyester/spandex as well as wool. Most of these synthetic fabric blends are treated with chemicals and regular use of such masks can lead to excess oil, dirt, and sweat, leading to breakouts around the chin, jaw, cheeks, or mouth area especially during monsoon hot humid temperature which can further lead to difficulty in breathing. Apply gentle moisturizer, serums and creams rich in hyaluronic acid that is effective enough to combat skin flaking on areas covered by masks. Hydrate your skin by drinking at least 8-10 glass of water, juice, soup, coconut water, lassi, water-rich foods etc in 24 hours times as hydrated skin doesn't produce much oil which helps keep your skin clean healthy and fresh looking.

If you must use foundation, make it a light, water-based one. Oil-free formulations would be preferable to the usual creamy products so that it is not too heavy under the mask. Waterproof and smudge-proof products would be more suitable to wear under a mask.

Another major change is that there is less emphasis on lipstick and more emphasis on eye make-up. The trend is now to accentuate eye make-up.

Now that all the focus is on eye makeup pay extra heed to your eye-

brows. Well-groomed eyebrows can change the look.

Kajal, eyeliner and eye shadows are becoming more popular. In fact, the prediction is that various shades of eye shadow will become the trend. Since the emphasis is on eyes, one must pay more attention to grooming the eyebrows on one's own, by plucking and shaping them.

According to an expert, "Smoky eyes, glitter and pastel hues are 2021's best picks for eye shadows. Be playful and experiment. Coloured mascaras and eyeliners should make a comeback." Many are also predicting that transparent masks will become the trend so that women can wear bright lipstick, which will be visible under the mask.

You may not be wearing your lipstick, but continue taking care of the skin on the lips, so that the skin of the lips does not suffer under sweltering heat and suffocation inside the mask, make sure you give good care to your lips.

Invest in hydrating lip balm and lip masks to keep them supple and plump. Or, apply almond oil on the lips at night and leave it on overnight.

All said and done, makeup will never go out of fashion. Makeup not only makes one look good but also feel good. It is said that wearing lipstick

actually lifts the look immediately and also lifts the mood. Therefore, we are all looking forward this year 2021 when the pandemic will end and make-up will be popular again.

The ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has changed the face of beauty with people using this as a time to really care for their skin by experimenting with new products and at-home treatments



Ileana D'Cruz is a 'beach bum for life'

NEWS ROUNDUP

Bollywood actress Ileana D'Cruz on Thursday shared a twist of nostalgia from her holiday this time last year, in the process confessing she is a beach bum for life.

Ileana posted the picture on Instagram

Stories, where she is seen lying in a hammock wearing black swimsuit, against the backdrop of a blue sea.

On the image, she wrote: "This time last year.... #Beachbum-forlife."

The picture seems to be from her holiday

last year in Andaman Islands.

Ileana is currently all set to star in Unfair N Lovely, a comic take on India's obsession with fair skin. Set against the backdrop of Haryana, the film features Ileana opposite Randeep Hooda.

Face art: Transforming into celebrities and wow!

Dikshita Jindal has just graduated as a Computer Science engineer in 2020. Besides that, she is a self-taught makeup artist based in Delhi and have been practising makeup since 2017. she has transformed herself into almost 20 celebrities as of now

TEJAL SINHA

Ever imagined of transforming yourself into your favourite celebrities? No right.

But meet Dikshita Jindal who has been creating wonders by using her make-up skills and transforming herself into various well-known personalities.

Dikshita has been very enthusiastic about makeup and beauty since she was in her 11th or 12th class. However, ended up doing engineering.

Though Dikshita was doing her engineering, it did not stop her to pursue her passion. Dikshita being a self-taught makeup, she learned makeup by herself by watching YouTube videos and reading blogs online especially of Huda Kattan. She is very much inspired by her and see her as her role model.

Sharing about her journey as a make-up artist and an influencer, Dikshita shares, "I started my real journey as a makeup artist in 2018 when I won some competition on Tiktok and got enough money to buy good makeup products by myself. At that time my parents weren't supporting me and I didn't want them to invest any money in makeup for me. After that, I created a lot of content and got a lot of collaborations with various companies. I even started my face art series."

In August, Dikshita uploaded a video of Kokila Parag Patel also known as Kokila Ben (Rupal Patel) video that got viral and thought of doing it in some unique way. Little did she know that video will blow up and reach millions on Instagram and crores on YouTube.

"Someone uploaded my Kokila

video on YouTube and currently, it has almost 3 crore views. I have transformed myself into around 20 celebrities till now and I get so surprised by seeing people's responses to every transformation. I always wanted to try it for a long time, I even bought some wigs for that but I tried my first transformation when the Kokila trend was going viral and transformed myself into Kokila Ben as I wanted to make Kokila video in some unique way. It just blew up and went way too viral. Since then, I have done many transformations and I will keep doing it," says the influencer.

Dikshita shares that when she posted the Kokila Ben video, she had no idea that people

went viral, I wanted to recreate it in some unique way, that's when it hit my mind that I should start with transformation videos. If that idea wouldn't have struck my mind then, I wouldn't have gotten that fame. I was nervous when I posted my first transformation because I didn't know how people will respond to it."

Later, her works have been appreciated and shared by various celebrities and brands including Arshi Khan, Mostlysane (prajakta kohli), MyGlam and many others. Sharing about the initial challenges that she faced during the start of her journey as a beauty influencer, she shares that when one starts as a beauty influencer, there are a lot of things you need to keep in mind.

She adds, "I had to do a lot of research before uploading anything. The biggest problem is collaborations, most brands want to work with you on a barter basis even if you have great content and audience, which doesn't pay our bills and demotivates us. On the contrary, I had to be consistent with the content and pandemic gave me that time. Uniqueness is what people prefer and I have to

brainstorm a lot to provide that unique, engaging and entertaining content. Instagram algorithm is one of the biggest problems too, some days reach is too high and some days it's way too low but I never gave up and kept creating content with consistency."

Pandemic impacted Dikshita in a rather positive way. It gave her time to explore her creative side even further. During the pandemic, she created two series of face arts where she designed the face arts and painted them on her face using face paints obviously. One was based on seasons and the other on planets. She got a really good response on both the series and people appreciated both of them a lot. After that her transformations into celebrities have been loved by a lot of people. She is currently working on taking her transformations to the next level and on beauty make up as well.

"She has also launched my online makeup courses recently. Besides that, I have worked in song videos as a makeup artist and a co-actor. However, in future, I want to work as a celebrity and a bridal makeup artist. I even want to work with magazines like Vogue. Currently I am being managed by Big Bull Entertainment who support, guide, and motivate me to produce my level best content," concludes the beauty influencer.



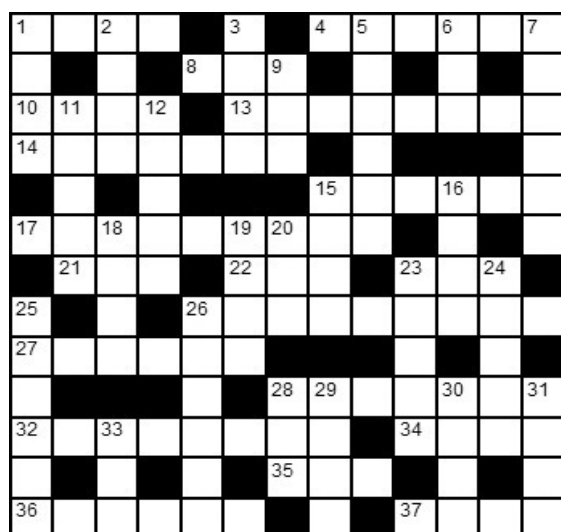
Dikshita Jindal

will love it so much and that video will reach millions in a week.

She adds, "I feel so grateful and blessed that thousands of people wait for me to post new content. That keeps me motivated. I receive so much love for every transformation. Although there are a few critics and hate comments too, I keep calm, improvise where I can and focus more on positivity. Many people even try to copy me, but I think being unique is important."

Sharing about how she got the idea that she would start doing this transformation and post them on your social media, she says that she had the idea from very long time when she saw someone do cosplay videos on Tiktok and wanted to try transformations because her face shape is unique.

She says, "When Yashraj Mukhate's Kokila Ben video



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 25

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Organ of smell (4)
- 4 Trash (6)
- 8 Dopey what? (3)
- 10 Horse breed (4)
- 13 Insanities (8)
- 14 Income (7)
- 15 Submerged (6)
- 17 Stupefy or confuse (9)
- 21 Shade tree (3)
- 22 Black bird (3)
- 23 To put in place (3)
- 26 Policy of segregation (9)
- 27 Slow movement (6)
- 28 Like a slingshot (1-6)
- 32 Manual (8)
- 34 Dread (4)
- 35 Naught (3)
- 36 Island in West Indies (6)
- 37 Letters of urgency (4)

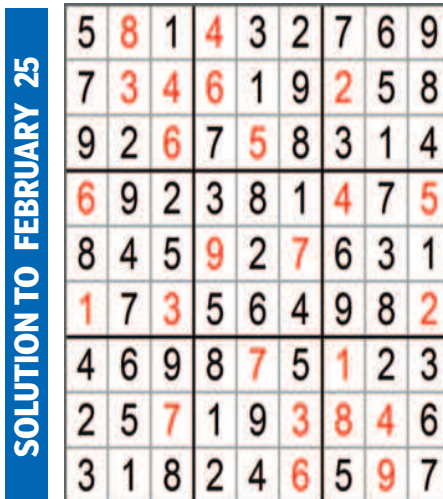
Down

- 1 Close by (4)

East European (4)

- 3 Berg opera (4)
- 5 Pestilence (6)
- 6 Hawaiian garland (3)
- 7 Spraying by using a long pipe and a nozzle, perhaps? (6)
- 9 Tint (3)
- 11 Jewish teacher (5)
- 12 Muslim princess (5)
- 15 Move (4)
- 16 Leg joint (4)
- 18 Biting insect (4)
- 19 Mafia boss (4)
- 20 Literary snippets (3)
- 23 Bundle of hay or straw (5)
- 24 Fungal infection (5)
- 25 Scent bag? (6)
- 26 Car safety device (3,3)
- 28 Hither's partner (3)
- 29 Flay (4)
- 30 Female swans (4)
- 31 Fall in drops (4)
- 33 Seize suddenly (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 25

Protect your hair

Weather is getting hotter so as our temple while fighting for right sunblock to right style. Summer is a great weather for hair. Here are few tips to bouncy, shiny, super cool hair styles and dazzling effects of it.

Washing your hair is a must

Increase the number of washes in a week. It will avoid accumulation of sweat on the scalp, and keep your hair clean and shiny.

Choose the right shampoo

Use a shampoo that addresses the problem of sweat, and does not strip your scalp. You cannot have a good building if the foundation is weak, so you have to have a strong scalp to maintain good quality hair.

Shampoo to suit the purpose

Use moisture or hydration

shampoo and NOT

creamy or heavy shampoo during summer.

How to use conditioners

The trick is to mix water with conditioners and use a

little diluted version. It will not make hair feel heavy yet keep it moisturised.

Oiling is a must

Use light weight oil only for summers. Your grandparents still have lovely hair due to oiling of hair regularly, and some traditions are actually going to help you maintain beautiful hair.

Do not touch

People who have frizzy hair should avoid touching their hair too much. The more you comb your hair, the more you turn it into a ticking bomb. Coconut oil when applied on frizzy hair for two to three hours eases the frizz.

Right time for a haircut

The hair grows faster in summer making it the perfect reason for you to chop the crop. There are more split ends due to tying of hair, and pinning up too, the hair cut avoids this for sure. A hair cut can change how you look in the same attire, giving you an easy makeover.



Devise mechanism to control river pollution, Jal Shakti Min told

NEW DELHI

THE National green tribunal has directed the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) to devise an appropriate mechanism for more effective monitoring of steps for control of pollution and rejuvenation of all polluted river stretches in the country.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said there has been continuous failure of statutory mechanism for preventing pollution of water and hardly any accountability has been fixed for such serious fail-

ures. "MoJS may devise an appropriate mechanism for more effective monitoring of steps for control of pollution and rejuvenation of all polluted river stretches in the country.

"The said mechanism may be called "National River Rejuvenation Mechanism" (NRRM) or given any other suitable name. NRRM may also consider the observations with regard to setting up of National/State/District Environment Data Grid at appropriate levels as an effective monitoring strategy," the bench, also comprising Justice



S K Singh, said. The tribunal directed that chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories must work in mission mode for strict compliance of timeliness for commencing new projects and completing ongoing projects. "Other steps in terms of action plans for abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of rivers be taken effectively. The process of rejuvenation of rivers need not be confined to only 351 stretches but may be applicable to all small, medium and big polluted rivers, including those dried up," the tribunal

said. It directed the chief secretaries of all states and UTs to personally monitor progress at least once every month and the NRRM every quarter and reiterated that accountability for failure to comply with the direction for payment of compensation will be of the concerned chief secretaries. The NGT had earlier formed a Central Monitoring Committee to prepare and enforce a national plan to make over 350 river stretches across the country pollution free. The tribunal had said that there has been deterioration in quality of wa-

ter in rivers in spite of the Water Act which was enacted way back in 1974 which was intended to bring about improvement. The green panel's direction came after taking note of an article in an English newspaper. According to the news item, 351 polluted river stretches have been noted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and 117 such stretches are in the states of Assam, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. The CPCB has apprised the concerned states of the extent of pollution in the rivers.

Man kills wife with blunt object, arrested

NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old woman was murdered by her husband on Thursday as the accused suspected her of having illicit relations in north Delhi's Mukundpur. The accused used a blunt object to smash his wife who died on the spot.

The police received a call that a man had murdered his wife at around 12 noon on Thursday. The police team which arrived at the spot found the body of the woman on the floor. The accused who is a daily wager was arrested from the spot. "The husband identified as Devkinandan has been taken into custody. A case of murder has been registered and further investigation is on," said a senior police officer.

Unnao girls were given herbicide in water: FSL

KANPUR

THE water given to the three Unnao girls, which led to the death of two of them, had been mixed with Sulfosulfuron, a herbicide, police said on Thursday.

The report of the chemical analysis of the viscera of the two girls found dead on February 17 night, released by the Forensic Science laboratory (FSL), Lucknow, has revealed the presence of Sulfosulfuron in their vital organs.

Unnao Superintendent of Police (SP) Anand Kulkarni said the accused used Sulfosulfuron, which is an odourless herbicide, to poison the water. "It was due to this that the



girls did not realise they were being poisoned. Besides, the water of the hand-pump from which the bottle was filled is poor in taste," he added.

The SP said the police will now find out from where the accused had bought Sulfosulfuron.

The incident took place in

the Babuhara village on February 17 when the girls, who had gone to collect fodder for cattle, were found lying unconscious in the field by their family members.

The third girl, who is recuperating at a private hospital, said in her statement to police and magistrate that the accused Vinay did not indulge in any kind of sexual assault but had given them a packet of chips which they refused.

He then offered his bottle of water and they fell unconscious soon after drinking the water.

The girl said the water of a nearby hand pump tastes poor, hence they did not suspect anything wrong.

Bike boat scam accused arrested in Lucknow

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh's Special Task Force (STF) has arrested B.N. Tiwari, said to be the mastermind of the bike boat scam and owner of a private news channel.

He was arrested from Gomti Nagar area on Thursday. Tiwari carried a reward of Rs 50,000 and the STF had been searching for him for several months.

The bike boat scam is worth Rs 3500 crore and came to light in 2019.

A company named Proud Innovative Promoters Limited launched a ponzi scheme called Bike Boat.

People were assured that a bike would cost Rs 62,000 and the members would get a monthly return of Rs 9,765. Thousands of members were cheated by the company.

The Enforcement Directorate



is also investigating the case.

The owner of the bike boat company Sanjay Bhati along with partners Sanjay Goyal, Vijaypal Kasana, Vinod Kumar, Vishal Kumar, Harish Kumar, Rajesh Yadav, Rajesh Bhardwaj, Vinod, Pushpendra, Sunil, Adesh Bhati and Sunil Kumar are currently in jail.

Ex-Har Cong leader Tanwar launches Apna Bharat Morcha

NEW DELHI

FORMER Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar launched his Apna Bharat Morcha in New Delhi on Thursday along with his supporters. He was joined by former Tripura Congress chief Pradyut Barman who had also quit the Congress.

Tanwar, who left the Congress in 2019, attacked both the BJP and his former party.

"The opposition is dumb and the government is deaf, so when the politics is between deaf and dumb then the people will suffer so the new political formation has to struggle for the people."

He asked his supporters to be ready for a long struggle to unseat the people who are least bothered about the public. Joining him was Pradyut



Barman, former Tripura royal and ex-Tripura Congress chief who said "nothing should be imposed from Delhi and people who send lesser MPs to Parliament should also be heard." Tanwar was also

joined by scores of bureaucrats including S.R. Darapuri from UP who was jailed for anti-CAA protests in Lucknow. Tanwar's new party was launched at the Constitution Club here along with an online launch at 25 places including Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand. Tanwar, who was the Haryana Congress state president for more than five years, had quit the party after his supporters were denied tickets for the 2019 Assembly election. Tanwar will not be the first ex-Haryana Congressman to launch his own party. Bhajan Lal after being denied the Chief Ministership in 2004 launched his own party, the Haryana Janhit Congress, but later merged it with the Congress.

Azam Khan's 'Loktantra Senani' pension stopped

RAMPUR

THE Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has stopped the Loktantra Senani pension being received by Samajwadi Party MP Mohd Azam Khan. Khan had been receiving the pension, Rs 20,000 per month, since 2005. He was among the 37 beneficiaries of the pension in Rampur district. Azam Khan was jailed during the Emergency in 1975 and had been categorized as a 'Loktantra Senani' by the Mulayam Singh government that started the pension scheme. Additional District Judge Dharmendra Rana said, "Matter adjourned. Now listed for March 9. Meanwhile, no coercive action be taken against the accused."

Toolkit case: Shantanu gets protection from arrest

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday granted protection from arrest till March 9 to Shantanu Muluk in the 'Toolkit' case and directed the police to not take any 'coercive' action against the accused till then.

Fearing arrest, Muluk had moved the Patiala House Court in Delhi seeking anticipatory bail on Tuesday, three days before the end of ten-day transit remand granted to him by the Bombay High Court on February 16. Additional Sessions Judge Dharmendra Rana said, "Matter adjourned. Now listed for March 9. Meanwhile, no coercive action be taken against the accused."

This came after Additional Public Prosecutor Irfan Ahmed sought seven more days to file the reply in the bail application. "During the course of inter-



which was then edited by others without his knowledge. He, along with climate activist Disha Ravi and Nikita Jacob are facing charges of conspiracy and sedition in the case related to the farmers' protest. The police said that the 'Toolkit' was a sinister design to defame India and cause violence.

Muluk asserted that he helped collate information about the site of farmers' protests and formulate it in the form of a map for easy reference. "The Toolkit clearly shows that there is absolutely no connection with their social media support for the farmers protests, and with any violence whatsoever. "There is absolutely nothing in the 'Toolkit' that advises doing anything unlawful, he said, adding that all it talks about is social media and offline peaceful protests and contacting elected representatives.

UP courts to resume normal functioning from March 1

PRAYAGRAJ

THE Allahabad High Court and its Lucknow bench and all Uttar Pradesh courts will function in a routine manner from March 1 with all judges and their supporting staff like private secretaries, bench secretaries and peons attending in full strength.

Registrar (protocol) Ashish Kumar Srivastava said all the modalities and arrangements have been approved by Chief Justice Govind Mathur in this regard. Though the restrictions have been removed, but certain precautions will still be maintained during court proceedings to check Covid spread. As per the notification, the chambers of advocates in high court premises will also open from March 1.

The canteens of advocates and employees in the high court premises will also function in a routine manner. "The judges and lawyers will wear robes and coats as prescribed in routine manner," the notification read. However, the advocates appearing in court, will wear masks and adhere to all conditions prescribed for social and physical distancing.

No offline exams up to Class 8 in Delhi govt schools

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

VARIOUS private schools in the national capital plan to promote students upto class 8 or assess them on the basis of projects and assignments through the year in view of continuing closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Delhi government has issued guidelines to its schools for assessment of students up to class 8, ruling out offline examinations and instead, asking them to grade the students on the basis of projects and assignments. The government, however, has left the decision to private schools to prepare their own schedule and decide on the assessment modalities themselves. "Giving students up to class 8 this benefit of their regularity in attendance that they had during the lockdown period where the teaching mode was online is definitely very beneficial and encouraging for students," said Priyanka Barara, Principal, MRG School, Rohini.

"It will also remove any kind of fear towards assessment because assessment is truly required for



each and every student. We also believe that assessment cannot just be done only by testing," she said. "Assessment is more meaningful when it is done on a daily basis, when the teacher tries to understand what the child is learnt through their lesson plans. So, promoting students up to class 8th to their new session would not be a challenge because we are regularly taking the assessment through online mode of classes and the evaluation can be done regularly through their daily learning levels," she added.

According to Alka Kapur, Principal, Modern School, Shalimar Bagh, "We are living in trying times wherein it is of paramount impor-

ance to protect lives above everything else. The modus operandi of the Indian education system has undergone a transformation. Hence, the decision of Delhi government regarding the promotion of students till class 8 is a justified and a welcome move." "We have been assessing and grading students on the basis of their assignments, online quizzes, project work along with online examination. Seeing the current scenario, the weightage of project work, assignments etc. will be more in comparison to the online examination.

Students will have to judiciously use their digital resources to gather meaningful information, develop

an understanding and form an opinion on the same, and present it coherently," she said. "On the flip side, all the teachers will have to get accustomed to digital evaluation and grading systems which reduces a lot of redundancy and paperwork. It's a win-win decision for all, let's commit to learning safely," Kapur added. Schools were closed in March last year, ahead of a nationwide lockdown, to curb the spread of coronavirus. While several states reopened schools from October onwards, the Delhi government allowed reopening of classes 9 to 12 from January 18. The board examinations for classes 10 and 12 will be conducted from May 4.

Covid cases slightly up in Delhi



NEW DELHI

THE Covid-19 case rate, which seemed to have come under control in the national capital, is now gradually rising. For the first time in this month, the national capital recorded over 200 cases in the last 24 hours while the positivity rate has also went up by a few decimal points on Thursday, as per the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

A total of 220 fresh cases were recorded, though there was no deaths. The city reported 200 new cases and two deaths on Wednesday.

The Covid-19 infection in Delhi is gradually getting on the lines with eight other states which are under scanner for reporting a sudden spurt in cases there. The infection rate in the national capital, which was under 0.25 per cent for a few weeks, has now risen to 0.34 per cent.

Meanwhile, officials said that 188 patients recovered from the viral disease in the last 24 hours.

The latest figure of cumulative case tally now stands at 6,38,593, including 6,26,519 patients who have either been recovered or have migrated, while the death toll stands at 10,905.

UN nuclear watchdog to clear up Trump mess

THE head of the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog said it reached an agreement with Iran to continue its “necessary” verification and monitoring activities for up to three months, but there will be less access and no more snap inspections from this week. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi said his talks with Iranian officials had produced a “good, reasonable result” that “salvages the situation for now”. The watchdog has arrived at a temporary bilateral technical understanding whereby the agency is going to continue its necessary verification and monitoring activities for a period of up to three months. This is significant on several counts. The agreement is that the understanding reached will be under review constantly

– so if they want to suspend it or extend it, that could be done. The hope of the IAEA has been to be able to stabilise a situation which was very unstable, and this technical understanding does it, so that other political consultations at other levels could take place. But in a statement, Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation said the Additional Protocol and IAEA access as part of the 2015 nuclear deal will be completely suspended from Feb 23. No access will be given to the nuclear watchdog beyond safeguards of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the organisation stressed. It said, however, that Iran has agreed to keep recording information on its inspection equipment for three months without granting IAEA access. If the sanctions are completely lifted within three months, Iran will give

this information to the agency. If not, the information will be deleted forever. Iran says any access beyond non-proliferation safeguards would be “strictly forbidden and illegal”. An article of the legislation passed has foreseen judicial punishments for potential violators. Will this lead to the lift of crippling sanctions imposed by the former US President, Donald Trump? Though the IAEA chief was careful to say there still would be the same number of inspectors, but there would be “things we lose”, he did not offer many specifics, but Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif earlier said that Iran would be blocking the IAEA from accessing footage on its cameras at nuclear sites. All said and done, it is a specific, bilateral arrangement for monitoring the nuclear

programme. The announcement would potentially give a greater amount of time for a diplomatic process to get underway between the US and Iran. For weeks, the two countries have been at an impasse about efforts to return to the 2015 nuclear deal that saw Iran agree to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for a lifting of international sanctions. Tehran has gradually scaled back its commitments under the accord after Trump’s unilateral withdrawal in 2018. Biden has said he wants to rejoin the deal, but his administration has insisted Iran return to full compliance first. Iranian officials have demanded the US take the first step to rejoin the accord and lift its sanctions. Biden is having a hard time in restoring his country’s supremacy in world affairs. These are hard times. Combating Covid-19 simultaneously while clearing the mess created by Trump is no easy job.



To err is human, but not always

B ARAVINDA REDDY

RECENTLY I purchased a small drilling machine. The price on the pack was Rs 3,200. The shopkeeper offered to give the machine for Rs 2,600. I purchased the machine for Rs 2,600 and was happy that I had a good bargain. I came back to my house and checked the cost of the same machine on an e-commerce website. The price for the machine quoted on the website was Rs 1,990. This is a transaction based on ‘anchoring bias’. The Rs 3,200 price on the pack acted like an anchor and I could not visualise that the price of the machine can go far below its listed price. Many a times, when we take purchase decision our minds fall for the anchoring bias making us lose money.

In his book ‘The Art of Thinking Clearly’, Swiss author, Rolf Dobelli lists 99 thinking errors we make. Some of them are: survivorship bias, halo effect, false causality, confirmation bias, social proof, sunk cost fallacy etc.

Of all the biases, the confirmation bias plays out more often. It is the propensity of us to alter contrary information to agree with our existing beliefs and convictions. If somebody likes a leader and his friend reveal some uncharitable facts about the leader, he will ignore them and continue to adore his leader.

The common point that jumps out from all our thinking errors is our inability to think rationally. The paradoxical point is that we consider ourselves as the most rational of species but most of our actions are irrational. Throughout our history, hundreds of wars were fought. All wars bring destruction and loss of life both for the winner and the loser. More often, the winner will not achieve any of the objectives he fought the war for. There is an emotional basis for our errors in thinking. Most of our decisions are made by our emotional brain. Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist cum economist, who won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2002 calls the working of the emotional brain as system 1 thinking. System 1 thinking is coming to conclusion quickly based on available and limited information. When decisions are made quickly without much thought errors are bound to occur.

There is a physiological reason for the quick thinking of our emotional brain. In the animal world, to which we also belong to, energy is scarce. Every animal wants to conserve energy to survive. The proportion of the weight of human brain is 2% of total weight of the human body, but it needs 20% off the energy the human body produces. The human brain has to be frugal, not to spend too much energy if it is not to deprive other parts of the body of their share of energy. It frequently resorts to quick thinking to limit energy expenditure.

There is a practical reason too why we employ our emotional brain most of the time. In our everyday life, we have to take hundreds of decisions on all and sundry. If we sit over a small matter thinking for hours, life will not be just possible. However, we need to know that our mind is an easy prey to various biases, and we should guard against these biases to avoid costly mistakes. There will be occasions when we have to set aside our emotions and think matters out. If it is a purchase of a house, choosing a job, marrying life partner, a big financial investment, health issue or any issue with a large stake, we have to spend time to collect lots of information, think rationally and take different opinions from others so that we do not make thinking errors.

We may diligently gather all relevant information. We may employ resources and take time to plan and execute a decision. Tons of information and a lot of time spent on executing a decision is no sure way to guarantee success. Black Swan events occur suddenly when we least expect them, and they can smash our well-laid out plans to smithereens. We can take precautions to avoid errors, but errors do occur. The brightest people make mistakes. Errors make human life challenging and exciting. If we make a mistake, next time we have to learn to avoid similar mistakes and that is a challenge. If we improve upon the mistakes, it will be an exciting work. To err is human and it is also human to avoid errors.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer based in Hyderabad)

Kremlin critic’s extraordinary grit

SABINE SIEBOLD

JUST over two weeks after his poisoning with a military-grade nerve agent in Siberia, Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny began to respond to the words of his wife Yulia and wake from a drug-induced coma.

As he emerged from what he would later describe as days of appalling hallucinations, he found himself in Berlin’s Charite Hospital, where he had been evacuated for emergency treatment on August 22. He would later recount how he had to be lifted into a chair from his hospital bed and would sit with his mouth open, staring at a single spot on the wall.

In the months that followed, Navalny withdrew to a remote corner of the Black Forest. He used the time to drive himself back to physical fitness with intense workouts and take his war with President Vladimir Putin to a new level: targeting him directly, for the first time, with a video investigation into a lavish Black Sea palace.

On Jan 17, Navalny flew back to Moscow and was immediately arrested for alleged parole violations related to a suspended jail term in an embezzlement case he says was trumped up.

Fallout from Navalny’s poisoning and arrest has convulsed Russia’s relations with the West, already at a post-Cold War low, with Moscow raising the prospect of a rupture in ties with the European Union and the West weighing new sanctions.

Nationwide protests against Navalny’s detention attracted tens of thousands of people in the depths of Russia’s winter. But riot police hit back hard, detaining more than 11,000. Facing such a crackdown, it’s unclear where Navalny’s movement goes next. Some supporters worry it is losing momentum.

Putin, who makes a point of never uttering Navalny’s name, has said Russian State security agents would have “finished the job” if they had wanted to kill Navalny. The Russian leader has said accusations that he ordered Navalny’s murder are part of a U.S.-backed smear campaign targeted at him personally. The Kremlin has even questioned whether Navalny was poisoned at all and queried his sanity.

In hospital, Navalny chronicled his slow recovery by posting pictures on Instagram. An image of himself with his wife Yulia smiling, climbing a staircase to train his muscles, resting on a bench outside.

German police kept a watch-

ful eye. Navalny noticed a police officer guarding him in his ward 24/7, he told Russian blogger Yuri Dud in an interview. The German state confirmed it provided protection for Navalny but appears to have paid for nothing else.

Other bills were picked up by wealthy Russian businessmen, most of them living outside their homeland having fallen out of favour with Russian authorities. These men don’t all share the same political views, but they agree on one thing: Russia needs a genuine opposition to challenge a president who has been in power too long.

After his discharge from hospital, Navalny resurfaced in mid-October in the Black Forest village of Ibach, set in a high valley. Locals told Reuters he flew in late at night by helicopter.

Navalny moved with his wife and son into an apartment in an upscale complex with views towards the Swiss Alps. Armed police guarded their new home.

By early December, Navalny and his entourage moved to the old university town of Freiburg, near the French border. It was here that Navalny secretly worked on a feature length film with Vladimir Putin as its target. ‘Putin’s Palace’ would allege that Putin is the owner of a sprawling estate on Russia’s Black Sea coast. It was released on YouTube on Jan. 19, two days after Navalny’s arrest. The 112-minute film has since been watched at least 113 million times.

The central allegation - that the palatial residence had been built for Putin - had been reported before.

Publishing an investigation into Putin personally was something Navalny had been weighing for some time, people familiar with his thinking say. But he worried about the consequences.

“Alexei used to say that when we write about Putin, it will be our last investigation,” said Ivan Zhdanov, a colleague. “But, of course, we will continue.”

This shift in mood was noticed by Christo Grozev, lead investigator of British open-source news project Bellingcat. Grozev interacted with Navalny on another investigation, around the same time as the Putin palace expose, that identified Navalny’s alleged poisoners as agents of Russia’s FSB intelligence. The Kremlin has dismissed the report.

“He had a strong hypothesis that nobody in Russia would have access to Novichok,” the chemical used to poison him,



“without the consent of the Kremlin.” Navalny shot and produced much of his video investigation about Putin at Black Forest Studios in the small town of Kirchzarten.

Navalny filmed segments elsewhere too. Notably in Dresden outside the apartment where Putin used to live when he worked for the KGB in the 1980s and in Berlin where Navalny visited the archives of the Stasi secret police to see Putin’s identity card.

In mid-December, Navalny declared his poisoning case solved.

A few days later, he announced he had phoned up one of his would-be killers and tricked him into disclosing details of the murder plot, including that poison had been placed in Navalny’s underpants. Reuters couldn’t independently confirm his assertions.

Russian authorities dropped unambiguous hints that he would be jailed if he returned. These included a move by state investigators to open a new fraud case against Navalny, a charge he denies.

Some of Navalny’s supporters hoped he would stay out of Russia, at least for a while, for his safety but they soon realised he was determined to return home as soon as possible.

Ashurkov, Navalny’s friend in London, said he wanted to plant the idea that Navalny “has options, that he can engineer a life outside Russia for a while, that he would at least consider it.” “But when I looked at him and talked to him and started reading what he was writing, I understood that returning to Russia was his sole aim and there was no talking to him about

this.” Navalny used Instagram to announce his planned return to Russia.

“It was never a question of whether to return or not. Simply because I never left. I ended up in Germany after arriving in an intensive care box for one reason: they tried to kill me,” Navalny wrote. “Russia is my country, Moscow is my city and I miss it.”

Having made his flight details public, Navalny was accompanied by a gaggle of journalists on the flight, with his wife, to Moscow. Before arriving, his plane was diverted to another of the city’s airports to thwart his supporters who were waiting to greet him.

His arrest was swift. Four masked police officers intercepted him at passport control. Navalny, after kissing his wife Yulia on the cheek, walked away with them.

Two days later, Navalny’s allies released their Putin palace video.

At least nine of Navalny’s allies inside Russia were then detained one by one for what the authorities said were illegal calls for protests amid a pandemic. Some were put under house arrest, where they remain, cutting them off from the internet and their mobile phones. Others fled the country.

A couple of weeks later, a Moscow court jailed Navalny for nearly three years for parole violations, ignoring a Western outcry over his treatment and nationwide protests that had attracted tens of thousands in the middle of winter.

Aleksashenko, the former deputy Central Bank chairman, said it was debatable whether

the timing of Navalny’s return could have been any better. If Navalny had stayed in Germany, he said, six months from now “the Kremlin – and Kremlin media – would have said: Your team is in prison and you are hiding over there.”

Leonid Volkov, Navalny’s chief of staff, based in Lithuania, said the timing of Navalny’s return was never in doubt.

In recent weeks, Russian State media have sought to remind Russians of Navalny’s past flirtation with far-right groups. In videos from 2007, Navalny likened militants in Chechnya to cockroaches and espoused deporting migrants, saying, “We have the right to be Russian in Russia and we will defend that right.” In 2008, when a short war broke out between Russia and Georgia, he insulted Georgians, calling them rodents. He would later offer a qualified apology. Navalny has moved away from such rhetoric in the last decade. Allies say these early comments were an attempt to form a broad-based anti-Kremlin alliance, which meant engaging with hardcore nationalists too.

In the latest legal jousting, on Feb 20, a Moscow court found Navalny guilty of slandering a World War Two veteran. Navalny has said authorities are attempting to tarnish his reputation.

Navalny’s supporters don’t expect any rapid change in Russia. Aleksashenko, who helped pay for Navalny’s treatment, believes only further mass protests can pose a real challenge to the Kremlin.

(With inputs from Anton Zverev, Catherine Belton and Andrew Osborn)

Dangers of Mixopathy

LETTERS



THE Central Council of Indian Medicine had issued a Gazette on November 19, 2020 with prior approval of the Central government allowing ayurvedic doctors to perform 58 allopathy surgeries after due training for a few months. Though preclinical subjects are same in Ayurveda and allopathy, the line of clinical managements of medical and surgical procedures are entirely different. Even drugs of Ayurveda are herbal-based and of other indigenous materials. Indian Medical Association (IMA) has totally opposed this policy of government to mix Ayurveda and allopathy as it brings out adverse results on patients. In fact, Ayurveda is the most ancient medical science of Bharath for hundreds of years and respected and practically followed by kings and people of the era. Even ayurvedic surgeries were done at that time and

still being practiced, the father of which was Susrutha and we respect this legend of Ayurveda. As Ayurveda got spiritual orientation, it was thrived in many kingdoms. Allopathy doctors are never against ayurvedic medical science in its own form and originality and allopathy doctors never interfere with Ayurveda in its development and campaign.

But allopathy doctors are against mixing Ayurveda with allopathy as lines of treatments are entirely different. After five-and-a-half years graduation and three years of post-graduation, allopathy doctors come out of medical colleges and work in any reputed hospital for experience. Thus, it is a long journey for allopathy medicos. Even after such experience, still there are problems in tackling diseases and during surgery. When this is the reality, how can an

ayurvedic will be perfect to perform allopathy surgeries with limited training? What is the anaesthesia they give? How can they manage postoperative care? How can they manage sudden complications? How can they face all these with limited training? For whose sake this mixing of ancient and modern medical sciences which IMA brands it as mixopathy? Can any VIP come forward and get surgery done on him or her with ayurvedic doctors with allopathy training? Is this mixopathy for common man risking the life? When VIPs and wealthy people go to allopathy corporate hospitals even for minor thing, why should common man be forced

to get surgery done by ayurvedic doctors? It is true, there is shortage of doctors in the country as per population. But is this the way to tackle it risking the lives of the people? Increase in allopathy medical colleges and increase in the seats in medical colleges is the only solution. Many medicos come out of medical colleges and ready to join government service. Many medical graduates are serving rural areas. Many doctors started private hospitals in peripheral towns and rural areas with latest diagnostic facilities and surgeries thus taking care of health of the people. But mixing ancient and modern medical sciences is highly dangerous and risky policy. India has become medical hub and became medical tourist centre and many patients visit India from foreign countries and get treated with less expenses than their own country and with sophisticated modern medical technology and with best services. Many foreigners are happily going back to their countries with best treatments. In this scenario, if ayurvedic doctors are allowed to perform surgeries what would be prestige and reputation of Indian medical services? In view of these facts, The Indian Medical Association started fighting against mixopathy for the sake of poor people who will be the frontline

people badly affected by this system. We the members of IMA all over the country oppose this mixopathy tooth and nail and continue to fight to keep the prestige of allopathy with its identity and purity not allowing it mixed up with any other medical science. Shortage of doctors and poor medical care in periphery and rural areas should be tackled in a different way with the advice of experts in healthcare with vast experience but not with anyone in power. We appeal to the Central government to withdraw the Gazette immediately and appoint a committee with medical experts, National Medical Commission, social scientists and involving Indian Medical Association for a solution and for improving medicare in periphery and remote areas. We respect ancient Ayurveda when it confines to its originality without crossing its borders infiltrating into allopathy.

Dr Jayaprakash Reddy, IMA State leader, Nalgonda

Ensure irrigation for 2.5 lakh acres: Harish

HYDERABAD: Finance Minister T Harish Rao today instructed the officials to prepare plans to give waters in four segments through Sangameshwara and Basaveshwars lifts. The minister sought a report on distributing water to irrigate about 2.5 lakh acres in the four segments. He held a high-level meeting with irrigation officials at Aranya Bhavana here and asked about Kaleshwaram lift works. Make use of Mallanna Sagar water to be used for the purpose and shift them to four segments he directed. The minister for finance has stated that four segments to get water for irrigation are Sanga Reddy, Narayankhed, Andhole and Zahirabad. Prepare plans with financial estimates for them at the earliest he said. The minister stated that the government is for irrigating the segments up to 2.5 lakh acres. This on operation will boost irrigation and help farmers benefit he hoped.

TRS MLAs slam BJP for 2-cr job creation failure

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AS the MLC elections are approaching the political parties in the State engage in war of words. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, TRS leaders have demanded the BJP leaders to first get the two crore jobs assured by their party before seeking votes from the graduates.

TRS MLAs KP Vivekanand and S Saide Reddy allege that both the BJP and the Congress leaders are afraid of the ensuing MLC election after the announcement of Vani Devi as the candidate of TRS party for Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad Graduates constituency.

Vivekanand said, "It seems that BJP's candidate N Ramchander Rao is not keen on the election as he was unable

to do justice to his previous MLC post. He could not bring ITIR (Information Technology Investment Region) for the last six years but now he is promising the same. They have used their time only to oppose our government."

The TRS leaders asserted that the opposition parties are unable to compete because of which they are misleading people.

The graduate voters are smart and they will not fall prey to the misleading campaign by the opposition parties, said Vivekanand. He claimed that because of the efforts of the State government Amazon came forward with an investment of Rs 23,000 crore in Telangana. He said Dasoju Shrawan Kumar was the only Congress leader left in Gandhi Bhavan.

WhatsApp facility for property taxpayers

HYDERABAD

A dedicated WhatsApp channel has been launched by the Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration (CDMA) of Telangana to ease the tax payment process for citizens across the region. This service will be free to use and will also serve as a source for up-to-date tax fee information. One can avail of the services for property tax payment by sending a 'Hi' to CDMA, Telangana's official WhatsApp account on +91 90002 53342. Apart from paying their taxes conveniently via a debit card, credit card or internet banking, one can get more information on the services. The chatbot is currently available in English and Telugu.

The 'CDMA, Telangana Property Tax Module' is an automated 'chatbot' service which has made people



One can avail of the services for property tax payment by sending a 'Hi' to CDMA, Telangana's official WhatsApp account on +91 90002 53342. Apart from paying their taxes conveniently via a debit card, credit card or internet banking, one can get more information on the services. The chatbot is currently available in English and Telugu

convenient for paying taxes virtually during pandemic times.

KT Rama Rao, Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, said, "Telangana is one of the fastest urbanising states. With close to 20 lakh property tax assessments across urban local bodies, our citizens are still paying their taxes through POS machines, or citizen

service centres."

The WhatsApp-based channel will provide all the requisite information to people as well as a direct connection to apply for those services online. Critical information on the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Telangana will also be included in the account at an appropriate juncture by the CDMA, Telangana.

MLC Kavitha vows to develop temples

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAGTIAL

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha along with State Planning Commission Vice-President Boinpalli Vinod Kumar, District Collector Ravi and MLA Ravi Shankar on Thursday performed a special puja at Kondagattu Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Jagtial District. The temple priests welcomed her with Poornakumbh after which the temple offi-



cials handed over portrait of Lord along with the Teertha prasadam to MLC Kavitha.

Addressing media Kavitha said, "Thousands of Hanuman initiates come to the Kondagattu during Hanuman Jayanthi."

Kondagattu is one of the most famous shrine in the country, added Kavitha. She assured that the TRS government will work for the development of temples. "The credit for allocating budget for temples goes to the Telangana government alone," she asserted.

Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy would soon be developed on the lines of Yadadri while the details are awaited. She said, "details on this will be disclosed soon as she will work for the development of the temple." The event was attended by Choppadandi MLA Ravi Shankar, Telangana Finance chairman Rajesham Goud, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Vasantha and former Karimnagar district chairperson Tula Uma minority leader Sajid Khan.

AP turns preferred destination for film shoots

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state is turning a favourite destination for film shootings in recent times. The government's proactive role in encouraging film shootings has been yielding good results. As a result, several production units started shootings in picturesque areas of East Godavari agency region and Godavari river surrounding areas.

It may be noted that as part of encouraging movie industry in the state, the state government issued a GO No 45 on May 19, 2020, introducing single window system to provide shooting permissions by AP State Film, TV and Theatre Development Corporation (APSTFTDC).

After assuming charge the new chairman T S Vijaychandar and managing director T Vijaykumar Reddy brought new proposals to attract the movie units. As per the proposals, the state government amended the previous GOs and offered shooting permissions free of cost to encourage production of



Tollywood hero Chiranjeevi taking part in a film shooting in Mareduhilli in East Godavari district recently

more films in the state. The department will collect caution deposit and refund the amount immediately after completion of shooting. The state government appointed film facilitation officers who will act as liaison officers to get permissions from various departments to assist the movie

units single window system.

The APSFTVTDTC issued another GO on January 1 this year offering online permissions for movie units to facilitate shooting in the state as part of Ease of Doing Business.

Owing to these initiatives, several production units, including movies involving senior actors, are

- The govt's sops for film shootings are attracting movie makers towards the State

- Beautiful forest locations in Rampachodavaram, places along River Godavari are abuzz with shootings in recent days

- Film units from Karnataka are also being pulled to AP thanks to single window permissions and other facilities

also preferring to shoot their films in picturesque areas of Rampachodavaram agency and Godavari river surrounding villages in East Godavari district. Recently, the shooting of films of Chiranjeevi and Allu Arjun took place in agency region of Rampachodavaram.

It may be noted that the state government issued GO to refund GST to low budget movies and so far 32 units registered for this subsidy. Production units from Karnataka are also preferring to shoot in the attractive locations in the state. The increase in fee by Telangana government for film shootings is also said to have made AP favourable destination for producers as the production costs are coming down.



New NDA govt will be formed in TS soon : Modi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
COIMBATORE

ADDRESSING a massive public meeting in Coimbatore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that a new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government would soon be formed in Telangana. Addressing a massive public meeting in Coimbatore, Narendra Modi elaborated on the achievements of NDA government at the Centre. Tamil Nadu BJP in-charge Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy felicitated Modi with saffron

scarf and handed over the sacred vibhooiti of Maratha Malai Murugan temple for his wellbeing and success.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister strongly voiced against the continued opposition tirade and misinformation campaign against the centre.

He said, "With the support of people a new NDA government will soon be formed in Telangana." Union minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, Tamil Nadu State BJP president CT Ravi and other leaders also attended the meeting.

'Fan' will not work in civic polls: Lokesh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUVURU (KRISHNA DIST)

TDP national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh on Thursday accused the YSRCP leaders of becoming greatly worried at the fearless manner in which the TDP cadres fought the panchayat polls despite the false cases, attacks, threats and murders.

Lokesh said that the speed of the YSRCP fan in the panchayat polls was reduced to a great extent and the public mood was such that the fan would stop functioning altogether in the coming municipal elections. Everybody should condemn the YSRCP attacks on former MLA Tangirala Sowmya in Nandigama and on the TDP leaders in Tiruvuru and other places. The lawless "Raja Reddy constitution" was brought in to strike fear and suppress all sections of the people, he alleged.

Earlier in the day, Lokesh called on the former MLA and expressed his solidarity with her fight against the mining mafia. He also visited the TDP victims' families in Tiruvuru Assembly constituency. He told the Krishna Reddy family in Ramachandrapuram that the party would stand behind and extend all support to them in their struggle against the oppressive attacks by the ruling party leaders.

Addressing the media, Lokesh said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and his party leaders talked about the TDP finding no candidates in the panchayat elections. But after the polls started, the Chief Minister began to feel the real impact of the people's disapproval of his government's policies.

Admissions open for different courses at SRM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KATTANKULATHUR

ADMISSIONS are now open to various programmes at the Faculty of Science and Humanities (FSH) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur and for Medicine and Health Sciences programmes at SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre (SRM MCHRC), Kattankulathur.

The soft launch of application forms for Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Faculty of Science and Humanities was held at the Insti-

tute's premises in the presence of SRMIST's Pro VC (Medical) Lt. Col. Dr. A Ravi Kumar, Director (Admissions) Dr. K. SLakshmi, Director (Communications) R Nandakumar, Assistant Director (M&H) Venkata Ramakrishnan, Assistant Director (S&H), Dr. Vivek Shivhare, Dean (FSH) Dr. J. Jothikumar, Dean (Law) Dr. C. A. Gurudath, Dean (Dental) Dr. N. Vivek, Dean (SHP) Dr. Padma Venkat, Dean (Pharmacy) Dr. V. Chitra, Dean (Physiotherapy) Veera Goutham and Dean (Occupational Therapy) Dr. U. Ganapathy Sankar.

Under the Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRMIST offers various undergraduate and post graduate programmes from the College of Science and Humanities, School of Management, and School of Law.

Several UG and PG programmes are also available for students in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences that has the College of Pharmacy, College of Physiotherapy, College of Occupational Therapy, College of Nursing and School of Public Health among others.

The interested candidates may visit www.srmist.edu.in.



Sant Sevalal's struggle remain memorable: Minister Jagadish

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SURYAPET

MINISTER for Energy G Jagadish Reddy said the struggle waged by Sant Sevalal Maharaj for the endangered tribe will remain memorable forever in the history of the country and the sacrifice of such a great personality was priceless.

He participated in 282nd Jayanti celebrations of Sri Sant Sevalal in Suryapet on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, he said only people like Sant Sevalal would be remembered by everyone.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is the first in the country to recognise the sacrifices of Sant Sevalal Maharaj, he asserted and called upon the Lambada community to follow Sevalal's 12 principles to lead a happy life. The Minister stated that KCR is the only CM in the country, who respect the traditions of all castes and religions equally. TRS Tribal people's representatives, leaders, supporters and a large number of Tribals participated in the programme. Minister Jagadish Reddy wore traditional tribal turban and danced along with them to the drumbeat.

SIX THIEVES HELD

WARANGAL: In a joint operation, the CCI and Dharmasagar police arrested a six-member gang of thieves and recovered booty worth around Rs 13 lakh, including Rs 1 lakh in cash, from them. The gang members were identified as Tandra Pradeep alias Rayudu, Shanigarapu Rajasekhara, Tandra Nikhil, Mudimadugula Chandrasekhara of Mancherial district, Gummula Venkatesh of Jagtial district and Madduri John Kennedy of Kazipet. Revealing the details here on Thursday, Commissioner of Police P. Pramod Kumar said that the main accused Pradeep, who worked as a lorry driver, started stealing diesel from parked vehicles on highways.

Pradeep, who along with his friends, involved in chain snatching, bike lifting and robberies served a term in the prison. Later, he was arrested again along with Rajasekhara for allegedly killing a person in 2020. The police invoked PD Act on him. After he was released from Warangal prison, he formed a gang and started to loot the locked houses.

The police arrested them during a house check at Dharmasagar crossroad on the ring road. The accused were on their way to sell the jewellery. The Commissioner lauded the efforts of Inspectors L. Ramesh Kumar (CCS) and B. Ramesh (Dharmasagar) in nabbing the gang.

After 20 yrs in jail, man found wrongly convicted for rape

Vishnu’s parents and two bros died, but he was not allowed to even attend their last rites

LUCKNOW

A 43-year-old man from Lalitpur, ‘wrongly convicted’ in a rape case, has finally been acquitted by the Allahabad High Court after spending 20 years in jail. The man has been lodged in the Agra jail since the past two decades after being convicted on rape charges under IPC and the SC/ST Act.

During this period, his parents and two brothers died but he was not allowed to even attend their last rites.

A Division Bench of the high court finally announced his acquittal on Wednesday.

According to reports, a Dalit woman of Lalitpur district, in September 2000, had accused Vishnu Tiwari, then 23 years old, of raping her.

Police had booked Vishnu Tiwari under sections 376, 506 of IPC and section 3 (1) (xii), 3 (2) (v) of the SC/ST (Prevention) of Atrocities Act.

The case was investigated by the then Narhat Circle Officer, Akhilesh Narayan Singh, who submitted his report against Vishnu.

The accused was sentenced to life imprisonment by the sessions court. He was later shifted to Agra jail where he is currently lodged.

Vishnu appealed against the sessions



court’s judgment in the high court in 2005 but somehow the case remained ‘defective’ for 16 years and could not be heard.

Later, the state legal service authority appointed advocate Shweta Singh Rana, as his defence counsel.

The Division Bench of high court, comprising Justices Kaushal Jayendra Thaker and Gautam Chaudhary, on January 28, stated in its order “In view of the facts and evidence on record, we are convinced that the accused had been convicted wrongly, hence, the trial court’s judgment and the impugned order has been reversed and the accused is acquitted. The accused-appellant, if

not warranted in any other case, be set free forthwith.” Rana said, “Vishnu has been set free by the high court. The local administration has to complete the legal formalities before he walks free.”

Vishnu’s nephew Satyendra told reporters, “My uncle’s wrong conviction has shattered our whole family, both financially and socially. I lost my father, uncle and grandparents who died due to shock and social stigma.

“A major portion of our family land had to be sold to contest the case. As far as my uncle Vishnu is concerned, his entire life has been destroyed as he spent the best years of his life in jail and that too, for doing no wrong.”

‘MODI GOVERNMENT BATTING FOR BILLIONAIRE FRIENDS’

LPG PRICE HIKED BY ₹25

Congress spokesperson holds Press meet sitting on empty cylinder

Rise in fares of short distance trains: Yechury hits out at Modi government

NEW DELHI

COOKING GAS LPG price on Thursday was hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder across all categories, including subsidised fuel and those availed by Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries.

This is the third increase in rates this month on the back of spiralling international rates as demand recovered. A 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi now costs Rs 794 as against Rs 769 at which they were supplied on Wednesday, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase is applicable across all categories including subsidised and non-subsidised users. LPG is available only at one rate, market price, across the country.

So, in places like Delhi, there is no subsidy paid to customers and all LPG users pay a market price of Rs 794. An oil company official said a small subsidy is paid to customers in remote and far-flung areas to make up for the higher price arising from freight charges. LPG prices were increased this month first by Rs 25 per cylinder on February 4 and by Rs 50 on February 15.

The price of non-subsidised liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders was sharply



hiked by Rs 144.5 by state-run oil marketing companies on February 13.

According to the report, this was the sharpest hike in the price of non-subsidised LPG cylinder prices since January 2014, when prices had been increased by Rs 220 to cost Rs 1,241 per cylinder.

Prices have been on the rise since December and rates have cumulatively gone up by Rs 150 per cylinder. There was, however, no change in petrol and diesel prices for the second day in a row. Petrol in Delhi comes for Rs 90.93 per litre and diesel is priced at Rs 81.32 a litre.

In an unusual protest against the LPG price hike, a Congress spokesperson conducted a press conference sitting on an empty cylinder as the party accused the Modi government of being “anti-people”.

Hitting out at the government, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said price of domestic gas cylinder has been increased by Rs 200 in the last three months and petrol and diesel prices have moved “towards hitting diesel century”.

“The pitch of the Modi government, which is battling for billionaire friends on both ends of the economy, is full of high prices and inflation for the common people,” Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi using cricketing analogy.

Later, at the party press conference on the LPG price hike, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete and party secretary (communication) Vineet Punia sat on empty cylinders to register their protest against the government move.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday hit out at the government over the rise in the ticket fares of short-distance passenger trains, and accused it of being “disconnected” with the masses.

Amid concerns over the issue, the Railways had on Wednesday said the “slightly high fares” were only meant to discourage unnecessary travel. “This government’s disconnect with millions of Indians for whom the Railways are their economic lifeline & sole connect with the rest of India is complete. This price rise and its shameless defence shall be appropriately answered by the people,” Yechury said in a tweet.

In a unique protest against fuel price hike, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday rode pillion on an electric scooter to state secretariat Nabanna.

LORD SHIVA, STANDING TALL



An aerial view of Maha Mrityunjay Temple, believed to be the tallest Shiva Temple in the world, in Nagaon district.

Vehicle laden with explosives found near Ambani’s residence

MUMBAI

A vehicle containing gelatin sticks was found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani’s house in Mumbai on Thursday, said Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

The bomb disposal squad of the Mumbai police towed away a green colour Scorpio that was parked near Mukesh Ambani’s residence Antilia on Thursday evening. The explosives-laden vehicle was noticed by Ambani’s security personnel. The car had the number plate of Ambani’s security squad.



HINDU SUCCESSION ACT

Heirs of father of woman can inherit property: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said heirs of the father of a woman can inherit property under the Hindu Succession Act and they cannot be held as “strangers”.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and R Subhash Reddy referred to Section 15(1)(d) of the Hindu Succession Act and said the heirs of the parental side of a Hindu woman are covered under persons entitled to succession of property.

The top court said the term “family” has to be understood in a wider sense so as to include within its fold not only close relations or legal heirs but “even those persons who may have some sort of antecedent title, a semblance of a claim or even if they have a spes successionis”.

The judgement came in a case related to the property inherited by a woman named Jagno. She entered into a family settlement after death of her husband Sher Singh and settled the property in favour of her brothers’ sons. The descendants of the brother-in-law of Jagno challenged the transfer of the property. The apex court held that in the present case, Jagno, who as a widow of Sher Singh who had died in 1953, had succeeded to half share in the agricultural land and she was the absolute owner when she entered into a settlement. “We, thus, do not find any merit in the submission of counsel for the appellants that the defendants-respondents were strangers to the family. In view of our discussions, we do not find any merit in this appeal,” the bench said.



35 lakh cheque bounce cases: SC asks Centre if it can set up additional courts

NEW DELHI

In order to reduce pendency of cheque bounce cases which have reached 35 lakh across courts, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre whether it can create additional courts for expeditious disposal of such matters. A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices I Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee to inform it by next week whether the central government was willing to create additional courts under Article 247 for speedy disposal of cases under Negotiable Instrument Act (NI Act). Banerjee said he would seek instruction and inform the court by next date of hearing. Article 247 of the Constitution gives power to Parliament to establish certain additional courts for the better administration of laws made by it or of any existing laws with respect to a matter enumerated in the Union List. The top court was hearing a suo motu case to work out a mechanism for expeditious and just adjudication of cases relating to dishonour of cheques, fulfilling the mandate of law and reduce high pendency. The bench told Banerjee and senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appointed as amicus curiae in the matter, that there are certain judgements which say the legislature is duty bound to conduct an impact assessment before creating of a new offence under the law. It sought to know whether the government was under obligation for establishing additional courts to deal with cases under the NI Act, which is a central law.

Elephant runs amok, crushes 2 to death

NAWADA

TWO persons were crushed to death when a wild elephant ran amok in Bihar’s Nawada district. A team from the forest department was trying to catch the elephant, which has also destroyed crops. A forest official said the elephant entered Babhanauli village in Nardiganj on Wednesday night and killed Vinod Chauhan (55).

On Thursday morning, the elephant caught Anandi Singh (62), who was going to relieve himself in Hisua. It picked him up and then slammed him on the ground, which led to Singh’s death, officials said.

Fear has gripped the Nardiganj and Hisua areas as the elephant continues to be at large.

Nawada forest division officer A.K. Ojha told IANS that a team of experts had been called from Gaya and Patna to catch the elephant. He said that three teams from the forest department were trying to trap the elephant.

Forest Area Officer (Ranger) Sanjay Kumar said the elephant arrived in Nawada from Jharkhand’s Chatra. It first created trouble in the Sirdala Block area, then it came towards the Hisua and Nardiganj areas, Kumar said, adding that efforts were being made to drive the elephant back to the forest or capture it.

Huge money offered to topple govt in Pondy: Independent MLA

PUDUCHERRY

INDEPENDENT MLA of Mahe assembly Constituency of Puducherry state, Dr V Ramachandran, has revealed that big money was offered to him for development of his constituency as well as personally for extending support to topple the Congress government of Puducherry. Dr Ramachandran was speaking to IANS over telephone.

Q: There were allegations that huge

amounts of money had changed hands at Puducherry for toppling the Congress government. As an independent MLA supported by the Left, do you have any experience of this?

A: Yes, indeed. The BJP government at the Centre has used all tactics to topple the democratically elected government of Puducherry. Senior national leaders of the BJP had camped at Puducherry to lead this operation. I was also offered huge money for the development of

my constituency as well as for me personally. I had categorically said a firm ‘no’ to this.

Q: How can you you that this ‘operation’ was successfully carried out at Puducherry?

A: I can say this is a curse of democracy using money, which is not acceptable. Sadly, the Congress central leadership did not do anything to prevent this and this is a failure on the part of the Congress party also.

Centre opposes same-sex marriage in Delhi High Court

‘Despite decriminalisation of Section 377 of the IPC, petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right’

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that living together as same-sex partners is not comparable with the Indian concept of a family unit.

The government stated this in a counter affidavit filed on petitions filed by same-sex couples seeking enforcement of fundamental right of choice of partner. “Despite the decriminalisation of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, the petitioners cannot claim a fundamental right for same-sex marriage,” the government further said.

In India, marriage is a bond between a biological

man and a biological woman, it added.

One of the couples had sought direction from the court to declare that the Special Marriage Act, 1954 ought to apply to all couples regardless of their gender identity and sexual orientation, and reading the SMA so as to apply to all couples irrespective of their gender identity and sexual orientation.

The other couple, an Indian citizen and an Overseas Citizen of India are two gay men, who married in Washington DC, US in 2017, stated that the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 in as much as it discriminates against same-sex couples by denying legal recognition of their marriage is ultra vires of the Constitution



of India. Meanwhile, four more people belonging to the gay and lesbian community urged the Delhi High Court on Thursday to declare that marriages between any two persons irrespective of their sex be solemnised under the Special Marriage Act (SMA).

The Delhi government in response to a similar petition filed earlier has said that there is no provision in the SMA under which two women can be married, and it would be willing to abide by the court’s direction.

The latest petition is in addition to three pleas already before the high court seeking recognition of same sex marriages under the SMA, Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and Foreign Marriage Act (FMA).

A bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Amit Bansal sought response of the Centre on the joint plea by three men and a woman, who have urged the court to also declare that the SMA applies, regardless of sex, to any two persons who wish to marry by reading down any gender or sexuality-based restrictions contained in the Act. In their plea, filed through advocates Meghna Mishra and Tahira from Karanjawala and Co law firm, the petitioners have also sought that the provisions in the SMA which require a ‘male’ and a ‘female’ for solemnisation of a marriage be declared as unconstitutional unless they are read as “neutral to gender identity and sexual orientation”.

TODAY'S QUOTE

India hopes for TRIPS waiver

“I am sure the industry will show big heart across the world and support the TRIPS waiver that India has proposed at the WTO so that the entire world can come out of the Covid-19 pandemic much faster and bring back the 'V' shaped recovery to the entire world.”


— Piyush Goyal, Union Minister



MARKET

Axis Bank shares gain 3%

Shares of Axis Bank gained nearly 3 per cent on Thursday after the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) gave its approval to the lender and two of its subsidiaries for acquiring stake in Max Life Insurance.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	76.81	South		
Euro	92.87	African Rand		5.67
UAE Dirham	21.7	Hong Kong Dollar		10.75
Thai Baht	2.77	Japanese Yen		0.79
British Pound	106.69	New Zealand Dollar		56.73
Australian Dollar	60.82	Saudi Riyal		21.24
Canadian Dollar	60.87	Swedish Krona		10.12
Swiss Franc	83.28	Singapore Dollar		57.77

DELHI FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Clover unveils new brand

CLOVER launched its direct to consumer brand Deep Rooted.Co with a consumer app available as "Deep Rooted" on the Android and iOS platform. Deep Rooted.Co is a demand-backed supply chain solution for fruits and vegetables focused on quality, consistency, traceability and a high degree of predictability. The company will invest over \$2mn in creating farmer-facing input-output technology, investing in supply chain and cold storage capacities and communication to grow the brand platform. Avinash BR, one of the co-founders at Clover, said, "With Deep Rooted.Co, our goal is to be India's largest virtual farmer, facilitated by our full-stack agronomy intervention on the supply side; and an omnichannel presence, along with a consumer-facing app on the demand side."

Vivo V20's new price tag

VIVO on Thursday announced a new price for the vivo V20 SE. The company set a new price tag of Rs 19,990 for the 8+128GB storage variant. Offers on the device include up to Rs 2,000 cashback on transactions with HDFC Bank debit and credit cards, triple zero down payment from Bajaj Finance, zero down payment offer from IDFC First Bank, HDB, Home Credit, ICICI Bank and TVS Credit. This price change shall be applicable across all mainline partners, retail stores pan India, Vivo India E-store, Flipkart, Amazon.in and other major e-commerce platforms. "The smartphone is designed to delight every moment of customers with the help of 48MP rear camera and 33W FlashCharge along with 4,100 mAh battery. It flaunts a sleek magical design, and the 3D body curves makes it fit comfortably in your hand," the company said.

MMTC-PAMP rolls out coins

MMTC-PAMP rolled out the first-ever silver coin collectibles with Disney and Marvel characters imprinted on them in India. The limited-edition collectible coins are now available across all MMTC-PAMP retail centres. Each coin weighs 31.10 grams and is priced at Rs 5,000. This collectible range features popular characters from Disney such as Mickey Mouse, the World of Frozen, and Marvel characters like Iron Man etc. "We are proud to launch our latest limited-edition collectible series for Disney enthusiasts which beautifully blends the magic of Disney with the fine craftsmanship that MMTC PAMP is known for," said Vikas Singh, Managing Director, MMTC-PAMP India Pvt. Ltd.

Haier expands LED TV series

Haier has announced the expansion of its Google-certified Android LED TV series. The new additions to the K-series flaunt a stunning 4K picture quality on screen sizes 108cm (43), 127cm (50) etc. The 4K HDR television series comes with the latest Android 9.0 version certification with AI and can act as an IoT hub for all smart devices, allowing the users to navigate and control their connected devices. The series comes with features like Google Assistant that lets the user navigate the TV with just a voice command. Eric Braganza, president, Haier Appliances India, said: "With the launch of new Google Android K-Series televisions, we are strengthening our commitment to provide IoT and AI-powered smart homes to our consumers. With our new Smart LED K-Series TVs, we look forward to providing our customers with an entertainment prowess that caters to their need for on-demand content".

'CALIBRATED CUT IN FUEL TAX NEEDED'

Petrol, diesel prices will impact the cost of production: RBI Governor

MUMBAI

RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said there is a need for coordinated action between the centre and the states because there are inherent taxes levied by both, the governor said, adding that calibrated reduction of taxes is important. He, however, said both the centre and the state governments have their revenue pressures and they are required to spend high sums of money to enable the country and the people to come out of the Covid-19 pandemic stress.

"So the revenue requirement and the compulsion of the governments are fully understood. But having said that the impact on inflation also is something, which comes in from the fact that petrol and diesel prices do have an impact on the cost of manufacturing, production..." the Governor said at an event organised by

OIL ON BOIL

Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

On the central bank's digital currency, Das said a lot of work is going on internally in the RBI and some broad guidelines and approach papers will be released on it soon. The governor said RBI has certain concerns on crypto currencies and it has already been communicated to the government. He said RBI is looking into strengthening the regulatory architecture for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). "We are refining and further upgrading the regulatory architecture in respect of the ARCs to ensure that they have a skin in the game, and they are very much in business is receiving a lot of attention from us," Das said. On setting up of ARC for non-performing asset (NPA)

management, as announced in the Budget 2021, he said, "(in) no way will it jeopardise the activity of the existing ARCs" The governor said there is growing realisation and awareness among banks to dealing with bad assets and they are proactively making provision in their books for stressed assets.

He said RBI has sharpened and deepened its supervisory methods and is doing deep dive into areas of banking which were not done earlier. "We have a precise idea of build-up of stressed assets in banks and as soon as we see a sign of stress, we immediately enter into a discussion with the banks and proactively deal with the problems," he said. Das also asked public and private sector banks to improve their credit appraisal processes and take measures to stop ever-greening of loans. He emphasised that the country's financial sector currently is in a far much better place than it was earlier.

RBI has certain concerns on crypto currencies and it has already been communicated to the government. RBI is looking into strengthening the regulatory architecture for asset reconstruction companies

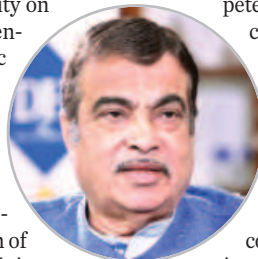
— Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor

Time to stop import of auto parts: Gadkari

NEW DELHI

UNION Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday asked automobile manufacturers to increase localisation of components to 100 per cent or else the government will consider raising basic customs duty on imports in order to encourage domestic manufacturing of such parts.

Speaking at an event organised by the Automotive Components Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), the Minister of Road Transport and Highways said the present levels of localisation of parts in the Indian auto sector is around 70 per cent and "at any cost we need to stop imports of auto components". "I urge both vehicle and auto component manufacturers to increase localisation of components to the maximum. Not maximum, my expectation is to make it 100 per cent. We are fully competent in all the things. Even, I am requesting automobile manufacturing companies to take it very seriously otherwise for imports of components we will think in the direction to increase more customs duty on that," he said.



Stating that the Indian component manufacturers are fully competent and should be given chance to fully supply the required parts, Gadkari said, "Presently my request to all of you is that at any cost we need to stop imports of auto components...This is the time for the Indian auto industry to support Make in India and Made in India movement." Reiterating that the auto sector is a key driver of the Indian economy and top contributor among the manufacturing sector, the minister asserted that increase in basic customs duty on select auto components will encourage local manufacturing of such items. "The government has always had a clear policy that we want to encourage Make in India and Made in India."

Fall in Bitcoin price will not impact inward remittances

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

THE recent 17 per cent fall in the price of Bitcoin will not have any impact on the remittance of money through the crypto currency in the country, feel the experts.

Even as the crypto currency has witnessed price correction, it will not have its impact on the remittances. Citing the reason, Sathvik Vishwanath, CEO & Co-Founder of Unocoin told Bizz Buzz that buying and selling happens simultaneously. As a result, volatility in crypto currency is zero. To date, stablecoins represent the most-used currency with regard to remittances.

According to a McKinsey report, cross-border transactions represent 20 per cent of total transaction volumes in the payment's industry, yet they generate 50 per cent of its transaction-related revenues. With popular stablecoins like DAI and USDT supported by the crypto domain, users have the ability to send and receive stablecoins across borders at a fraction of the current cost.

To date, stablecoins represent the most-used currency with regard to remittances



In 2020, remittances fell sharply by roughly 28 per cent due to the effect of the coronavirus pandemic.

Why did the remittance fall?

Well, migrants from USA & Middle East countries are the largest contributor to Indian Remittance inflows.

Since pandemic, remittance has come down due to lockdown and lack of work for informal working sector in construction and industry. In Nigeria, cryptocurrency prices

Mkts build on gains amid F&O expiry

Sensex spurts 258 pts, Nifty gains 115 pts; RIL leads charge

MUMBAI

THE Sensex surged past 51,000 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 15,000-mark on Thursday as indices started up for the third straight session amid expiry of monthly derivative contracts and bullish global equities.

A whopping increase in FPI inflows also boosted risk appetite, traders said. Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth a net Rs 28,739.17 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Global markets followed Wall Street higher after US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said policy rates could remain low for years, calming inflation concerns. The 30-share BSE Sensex spurted 257.62 points or 0.51 per cent to finish at 51,039.31.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 115.35 points or 0.77 per cent to 15,097.35. ONGC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.66 per cent, followed by NTPC, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank and PowerGrid. Index heavyweight Reliance Industries advanced 3.84 per cent, accounting for the lion's share of the benchmark's gains. Axis Bank jumped 2.94 per cent after regulator Irdai approved the lender's stake buy in Max Life Insurance. On the other hand, ICICI Bank,

Nestle India, L&T, Kotak Bank, Titan and HDFC were among the major laggards, slipping up to 2.10 per cent.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, Moody's raised its growth projections for India, saying the economy is expected to clock a growth of 13.7 per cent in FY'22 on the back of normalisation of activity and rollout of Covid-19 vaccines. "Domestic market added strength on yesterday's rally supported by positive F&O monthly roll-over and robust global market. Small and mid-cap stocks continued its out-performance over the benchmark indices. "World equity market rebound after getting assurance from central banks, importantly Fed, that good liquidity will be maintained, in spite of being under pressure of rising inflation, since the economy is still well below the pre-Covid standpoint," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. BSE energy, oil and gas, metal, utilities, basic materials, power and realty indices rallied up to 3.92 per cent, while FMCG and capital goods indices closed lower. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices surged up to 1.42 per cent.



Ashok Leyland buys Nissan's stake in Hinduja Tech

NEW DELHI

HINDUJA Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland on Thursday said it has entered an agreement with Nissan International Holding BV to acquire 38 per cent stake in Hinduja Tech for Rs 70.20 crore.

"The company has entered into a share purchase agreement with Nissan International Holding BV to acquire 58,500,000 shares for a total consideration of Rs 70.20 crore constituting 38 per cent in the paid-up share capital of Hinduja Tech Ltd. Consequent to the aforesaid acquisition, HTL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the company," Ashok Leyland said. In November 2014, Ashok Leyland had sold 38 per cent stake in Hinduja Tech (HTL) to Nissan International Holdings BV, investment arm of the Japan-based Nissan Group, for an undisclosed sum. The Chennai-based commercial vehicle did not share the reasons for buying back stake. At the time of the stake sale, Ashok Leyland in a regulatory filing had said: "To unlock value, HTL has roped in a strategic investor to subscribe to the equity share capital of the company."

'R&D key to IndianOil's growth'

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

Dr SSV RAMA KUMAR, Director (R&D), IndianOil, on Wednesday said research & development (R&D) has been playing a key role in the growth of public sector oil major IndianOil.

Addressing the media in the city, he said, "The diligent focus of IndianOil in research & development is what sets the company apart as a technology leader. In view of the deleterious effects of the fossil fuels, we need to find alternative sources of energy to create a sustainable future, which is decarbonised.

However, carbon is still the cheapest energy source and will continue to remain so for the next 20 years. But there is a strong need to control and contain the carbon output to reduce the carbon footprint even when we use the carbon fuels." He further explained: "For instance we have been using LPG for cooking for a very long time. Recently we have found a way of enhancing the thermal efficiency of LPG so that with less quantity



Dr SSV Rama Kumar

of LPG you would be able to do more cooking. This has led to the development of a product call IndaneXtraTej which gives 5 per cent saving on LPG consumption".

This is a tangible benefit of differentiated LPG with high thermal efficiency which also saves a lot of foreign exchange since almost 50 per cent of the LPG used in India is imported, he added "On the industrial side, by adding a little bit of nano material we have enhanced the thermal efficiency of LPG as a metal cutting gas which can replace the toxic acetylene gas used for metal cutting", he added.

Indian GDP will clock 13.7% upswing in FY22: Moody's

Rating agency says the country's fiscal position will however remain weak

NEW DELHI

THE Indian economy is expected to clock a growth of 13.7 per cent in FY22, registering a strong rebound from a 7 per cent contraction this fiscal, on the back of normalisation of activity and growing confidence in the market with the rollout of Covid-19 vaccine, Moody's Investors Service said on Thursday.

Moody's had in November last year projected Indian economy to contract 10.6 per cent in the current fiscal and return to growth of 10.8 per cent in 2021-22 fiscal. "Our expectation in current fiscal year ending March 2021 is for a contraction of 7 per cent significant improvement from our earlier forecast of contraction of over 10 per cent".

We try to incorporate some of the unexpected pickup in activity that we have seen recently. "For the year following that we expect a rebound of 13.7 per cent that reflects largely normalisation of activity, a pronounced base effect. Recovery of activity reinforced by some degree of rollout of vaccine, and growing confidence in the market that things are getting more back to normal," Moody's Investors Service Associate Managing Director (Sovereign Risk) Gene Fang said in an online

conference organised by Moody's and its India affiliate ICRA on India Credit Outlook 2021. Fang said reform implementation remains a challenge in India, and expressed uncertainty over revenue generation through CPSE privatisation announced in the Budget saying such "one-off monetisation policies are less durable in terms of supporting fiscal health for long term".

Stating that recession in India has ended, ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said Indian



Axar, Ashwin script India win

Hosts hammer England in day-night Test inside two days; inch closer to WTC final

AHMEDABAD

LEFT-arm spinner Axar Patel created an illusion of turn with 11 straighter deliveries that put India on the brink of the World Test Championship final with a 10-wicket demolition of England inside two days in the day-night third Test here on Thursday.

In only his second Test, Patel (15-0-32-5), with a match-haul of 11/70, relentlessly hit the good length area and hoodwinked England batsmen, who played for turn only to find that there was none on offer from him.

The result was their lowest total against India -- 81 all out in 30.4 overs leaving the hosts with a target of 49 which they achieved with minimum fuss taking a 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

At the other end, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (15-3-48-4) was an ideal foil.

Incidentally, after Afghanistan's debut Test in 2018 in Bengaluru, this was the second time that India won a Test match, well inside two days. This was after England skipper Joe Root's fabulous career-best spell of 6.2-3-8-5 resulted in India's dramatic collapse from 114 for 3 to 145 all out.

India lost as many as seven wickets for only 31 runs after looking solid at 114 for 3 at one stage in the game but England lost all 10 in an entire session in which no pacer was seen in action.

Ironically, it was the non-turning deliveries from Patel that had the England's rank and file pressing the panic button as they pre-empted away turn every time.

Whether it was Zak Crawley, Jonny Bairstow or skipper Root, everyone lost the mind-game as Ashwin also joined the fun with records tumbling one after another. When Patel sent back Ben Foakes, he became the first spinner to get 11 wickets in a pink ball Test match.

Following the two-day finish, ICC will be watching the Motera track with a 'Hawk Eye' even though the debate can continue for ages whether it was the turn that did the batsmen in or the lack of it.

The turn on offer was standard for any sub-continental track and no deliveries misbehaved. However, all eyes will now be on ICC match referee Javagal Srinath from India and his assessment of the 22-yard strip.

A case in point would be the wickets taken by the two left-arm spinners -- Patel and Jack Leach. They bowled deliveries at a speed between 88 kmph and 92 kmph with a round arm action and pitched them on good length leaving batsmen in two minds -- whether to play forward or go backwards.

While a bowler might end up getting the man of the match, Rohit Sharma's 66 off 96 balls in the first essay was 24-carat gold given that other batsmen looked like sitting ducks. But Indian batsmen save Rohit did have a torrid time during an afternoon session when Root and Leach made their lives miserable.



Rohit missed a sweep off Leach and Menon's decision was retained as per Um-

pires' Call. Once Rohit was gone, it was time for Root to enter the scene and do a Michael Clarke (6/9 with his left arm orthodox in Mumbai 2004) as Rishabh Pant (1), Washington Sundar (0) and Patel (0) were accounted for in quick succession.

At one point, Root's figures were 3-3-0-3 as he exploited the friendly conditions, repeatedly hitting the rough which helped him dismiss three left-handers in succession. Root's superb effort led to a cheeky tweet from former England captain Michael Vaughan, "Indian batsman can't play off spinners from Yorkshire."

He was referring to the green top strips that are always on offer at the Leeds. Ravichandran Ashwin (17) and Ishant Sharma (10 not out), who hit his first ever six in his 100th Test appearance, scored a few which proved to be priceless in the end. India need to win the fourth and final Test at the same venue from March 4 to seal the WTC final spot. (PTI)

Indian bowler R Ashwin celebrates the dismissal of England's Ollie Pope on the second day of the 3rd Test match in Ahmedabad on Thursday

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Innings: 112 all out	
Indian 1st Innings: (Overnight 99/3)	
Rohit Sharma lbw b Jack Leach	66
Shubman Gill c Zak Crawley b Jofra Archer	11
Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Jack Leach	0
Virat Kohli b Jack Leach	27
Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Jack Leach	7
Rishabh Pant c Foakes b Root	1
Ravichandran Ashwin c Zak Crawley b Root	17
Washington Sundar b Root	0
Axar Patel c D Sibley b Root	0
Ishant Sharma not out	10
Jasprit Bumrah lbw b Root	1
Extras: (B-2.1B-2)W-1	5
Total: (all out in 53.2 overs)	145
Fall of Wickets: 1-33, 2-34, 3-98, 4-114, 5-115, 6-117, 7-125, 8-125, 9-134, 10-145.	
Bowling: James Anderson 13-8-20-0, Stuart Broad 6-1-16-0, Jofra Archer 5-2-24-1, Jack Leach 20-2-54-4, Ben Stokes 3-0-19-0, Joe Root 6.2-3-8-5.	
England 2nd Innings	
Zak Crawley b Axar	0
Dominic Sibley c Pant b Axar	7
Jonny Bairstow b Axar	0
Joe Root lbw b Axar	19
Ben Stokes lbw b Ashwin	25
Ollie Pope b Ashwin	12
Ben Foakes lbw b Axar	8
Jofra Archer lbw b Ashwin	0
Jack Leach c Rahane b Ashwin	9
Stuart Broad not out	1
James Anderson c Pant b Washington	0
Extras:	0
Total: (All out in 30.4 overs)	81
Fall of Wickets: 1-0, 2-0, 3-19, 4-50, 5-56, 6-66, 7-68, 8-80, 9-80	
Bowling: Axar Patel 15-0-32-5, Ravichandran Ashwin 15-3-48-4, Washington Sundar 0.4-0-1-1.	
India 2nd Innings (Target 49)	
Rohit Sharma not out	25
Shubman Gill not out	15
Extras: (B-8 LB-1)	9
Total: (For no loss in 7.4 overs)	49
Bowling: Jack Leach 4-1-15-0, Joe Root 3.4-0-25-0.	

Ashwin fourth Indian to take 400 Test wickets, sixth spinner worldwide

AHMEDABAD

RAVICHANDRAN Ashwin on Thursday became only the sixth spinner in the world and the fourth Indian overall to take 400 Test wickets when he dismissed Jofra Archer on the second day of the day-night third Test against England here.

The 34-year-old off-spinner, playing in his 77th Test, is the 16th bowler in the world to have taken 400 Test wickets.

Former captain Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev, (434), Harbhajan Singh (417) are the other Indians who have 400 Test wickets to their credit.

Among the Indian bowlers with over 400 wickets, Ashwin commands the best average -- 24.94 as against Anil Kumble's 29.65, Kapil Dev's 29.64, and Harbhajan Singh's 32.46.

Ashwin also became the second fastest to reach the milestone after Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan, who made it in his 72nd Test. The veteran came into the match six short of the landmark and took three England wickets in the first innings. (PTI)

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Shaw shatters records on way to 152-ball unbeaten 227



JAIPUR

OPENING batsman Prithvi Shaw on Thursday rediscovered his form and became the eighth Indian player to score a double century in 50-over cricket as he smashed an unbeaten 227 off 152 deliveries, including a whopping 31 fours and five sixes, for Mumbai against minnows Puducherry in a Vijay Hazare Trophy match here.

Shaw, 21, played through the innings and scored the runs at a rate of 149.34. Further aided by Suryakumar Yadav's rapidfire 58-ball 133, Mumbai to 457 for four wickets in 50 overs at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. In reply, Puducherry managed just 224 in 38.1 overs to lose by 233 runs.

Shaw, who was captaining Mumbai in the absence of Shreyas Iyer, reached his 200 in just 142 balls. Shaw's Mumbai teammate and opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal was the last Indian to score a double hundred in 50-over cricket. Jaiswal had scored 203 against Jharkhand during the Vijay Hazare Trophy in October 2019.

Mumbai's 457/4 is the highest score by any team in a 50-over match in India, surpassing the 438/4 that South Africa had scored against India at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium in 2015. The previous highest score in the history of the Vijay Hazare Trophy was also set earlier this season when Jharkhand made 422/9 against Madhya Pradesh on the back of captain and wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan's 94-ball 173 only a few days ago.

Shaw's double century comes against a Puducherry who used as many as eight bowlers with 35-year-old former India Test bowler Pankaj Singh leading the line-up. Puducherry have suffered heavy defeats in the two earlier matches of the tournament, losing to Delhi by 179 runs and to Rajasthan by six wickets against in their opening match.

Shaw's 227 not out is the highest score by any captain in a 50-over match, surpassing the 222 not out that South African great Graeme Pollock scored for Eastern Province against Border in 1974. (IANS)

BRIEF SCORES

Group D

Mumbai 457/4 in 50 overs (Prithvi Shaw 227 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 133; Pankaj Singh 2/79, S Suresh Kumar 1/22) beat Puducherry 224 (Damodaran

Rohit 63; Prashant Solanki 5/48, Shardul Thakur 2/31) by 233 runs.

Maharashtra 277/6 (Kedar Jadhav 101 not out, Yash Nahar 55; Ravi Bishnoi 3/55, Aniket Choudhary 1/48) beat Rajasthan 233 (Mahipal Lomror 86, Salman Khan 68; Pradeep Dhadhe 4/48, Mukesh Choudhary 2/33) by 44 runs.

Himachal 251/8 (Nikhil Gangta 100 not out, Ayush Jamwal 34; Kulwant Kherjoliya 2/30, Simarjeet Singh 2/47) lost to Delhi 252/4 (Kshitiz Sharma 67 not out, Lalit Yadav 52 not out; Mayank Dagar 2/40) by six wickets.

Group E

At Eden Gardens: Haryana 308/6 in 50 overs (Shivam Chauhan 123, Rohit Sharma 51, Chaitanya Bishnoi 45) beat Jammu & Kashmir 295 in 49.1 overs (Parvez Rasool 86, Bandep Singh 51, Abid Mushtaq 46; Arun Chaprana 4/35, Sumit Kumar 3/59) by 13 runs.

At JU Second Campus at Saltlake: Saurashtra 324/9 in 50 overs (Arpit Vasavada 91, Avi Barto 83, Prerak Mankad 59; Ishan Porel 3/71) beat Bengal 175 in 37 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 44; Jaydev Unadkat 3/46) by 149 runs.

At 22 yards at Saltlake: Chandigarh 224/8 in 50 overs (Gaurav Gambhir 44 not out, Arslan Khan 44) beat Services 219 in 49.4 overs (Mohit Ahlawat 69, Ravi Chauhan 57; Gambhir 4/51) by five runs.

Plate Group

Arunachal Pradesh 225 for 6 in 50 overs (Kamsha Yangfo 58, Nazeeb Saiyed 54, Tech Doria 44) lost to Uttarakhand 226 for 2 in 24.3 overs (Kunal Chandela 78 not out, Kamal Singh 68, Jay Bista 46) by 8 wickets.

Manipur 162 all out in 40.1 overs (L. Kishan Singha 36, Jayanta Sagatpam 29; Md Saptulla 3/23, Anureet Singh 3/39) lost to Sikkim 165 for 2 in 36.1 overs (Robin Bist 85 not out, Ashish Thapa 43) by 8 wickets.

Assam 294 all out in 49.5 overs (Sib-sankar Roy 106, Gokul Sharma 70, Denish Das 34; Khrievitso Kense 4/61, Stuart Binny 2/40) beat Nagaland 210 all out in 45.2 overs (Chetan Bist 57, Shrikant Mundhe 26) by 84 runs.

Mizoram 236 for 7 in 50 overs (K B Pawan 89 not out, Taruwar Kohli 56, Pratik Desai 41; Sanjay Yadav 2/29) lost to Meghalaya 237 for 8 in 48 overs (Dippu Sangma 60 not out, Abhay Negi 40 not out, D B Ravi Teja 42, Punith Bisht 35; G Lalbiakvela 3/36) by two wickets.

India to host equestrian tent pegging World Cup qualifiers

NEW DELHI

WORLD Cup qualifiers for equestrian tent pegging will be held in Greater Noida from Match 11 to 14. The qualifiers will be hosted jointly by the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) and Equiwings Sports, a private firm organising the sport in India.

Among the seven countries that will be participating in the qualifiers will be Pakistan, thus making it the first event in India in a year in which athletes from the country will be participating. Russia, USA, Belarus, Sudan, Bahrain and hosts India will be the other six competing countries. The teams that finish in the top two will compete at the World Cup scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2023.

The last event in which a Pakistan team competed in India was the Asian Wrestling Championships that was held in New Delhi in February 2020. World Cup Qualifiers will be a part of The Penta Grand 2021; which also includes National Equestrian Tent Pegging Championship, the Half Million Cup and the Noida Horse Show to be held at the Gautam Buddha University Sports Stadium, Greater Noida from March 3 to 14.

"Efforts are being made by the Federation (EFI) through a constant dialogue with Asian Equestrian federation (AEF) to get Tent Pegging re-included in the Asian Games," said EFI secretary general Jaiveer Singh. (IANS)



DUNEDIN

NEW Zealand rode on opener Martin Guptill's whirlwind 97 off 50 balls and then staved off a late challenge from Australia led by Marcus Stoinis to win the second T20I by four runs on Thursday at the University Oval.

In what was a run feast of a match, Guptill's innings propelled New Zealand to 219/7 but Stoinis and Daniel Sams led a late charge from the visitors and their innings ended on 215/8.

Spinner Mitchell Santner chipped in with four wickets, three of which came in the 13th over. All-rounder James Neesham, who hit six sixes in his unbeaten 16-ball 45, took the all-important wickets of Sams and Stoinis in the last over of the match.

New Zealand looked to be in for a comfortable defence of their mammoth total after Santner

dismantled the Australians in the 13th over. He dismissed Josh Philippe, who was on 45 off 32 balls, before dismissing Ashton Agar and Mitchell Marsh for first ball ducks off consecutive deliveries. However, Stoinis and Turner then put on a show to get the visitors back into the game. The pair added 92 for the seventh wicket off just 40 deliveries.

The carnage left Australia needing 15 runs to win off the last ball of the over. The batsmen had crossed over and Stoinis took two dot balls before hitting a six over long on to leave Australia needing 9 off the last two balls. However, he was caught at long on off the very next ball, thus ending the visitors' chances of completing the run chase successfully. Jhye Richardson hit a four off the

2nd T20I: Guptill's 97 helps NZ win run feast against Aus by four runs

last ball and New Zealand won the match.

Earlier, Guptill smashed as many as eight sixes and six fours and fell just three short of his third T20 International century to Sams. He put up a partnership of 131 runs off just 70 balls for the second wicket with captain Kane Williamson, who himself scored 53 off 35. Williamson fell to spinner Adam Zampa after which Neesham continued the carnage, smacking an unbeaten 45 off 16 with six sixes and one four.

New Zealand now lead the five-match T20I series 2-0. The third match will be played in Wellington on March 3.

Brief scores: New Zealand 219/7 in 20 overs (Martin Guptill 97, Kane Williamson 53; Kane Richardson 3/43) beat Australia 215/8 (Marcus Stoinis 78, Josh Philippe 45; Mitchell Santner 4/31) by four runs. (IANS)

Fazza World Ranking tourney: Indians ensure 2 silver, 1 gold

Dubai: It will be an all-Indian men's compound open final at the seventh Fazza Para Archery World Ranking Tournament in Dubai with Rakesh Kumar and Shyam Sundar Swami both leaving the rest of the field behind. Meanwhile, Jyoti Balian reached the final of the women's event where she will face Russian Stepanida Artakhinova. In the semi-final match, Kumar beat Turkey's Aygan Erdogan 143-138 before Swami overcame a strong challenge from Slovakia's former world no. 1 and defending champion Marcel Pavlik by just two points (145-143) on Wednesday. Pavlik will now play the bronze medal playoff against Erdogan. Kumar was seeded eighth after qualifying and had earlier knocked out top qualifier Serhiy Atamanenko of Ukraine in the quarter-finals.

Indian GP athletics: Dutee, Hima Das win sprints

Patiala: Assam's sprint prodigy Hima Das won the women's 200m race while Odisha's Dutee Chand dominated 100m in the second leg of the Indian Grand Prix meet at Patiala's National Institute of Sports here on Thursday. Hima's winning time of 23.31 seconds in her first race after a long layoff due to back injury could be seen as good performance, but it fell short of Tokyo Olympic qualification time of 22.80 seconds. The women's 100m race went on expected lines with Odisha's international sprinter Dutee winning comfortably. She clocked 11.44 seconds. She had clocked 11.51 seconds in the first leg on February 18.

Boora confirms India's 1st medal at Strandja Memorial boxing tourney

SOFIA (BULGARIA)

INDIA'S Naveen Boora reached the semi-finals in the 69kg weight category on the fourth day of the 72nd Strandja Memorial boxing tournament, thus becoming the first boxer from the country to be assured of a medal in this year's competition.

The 2019 national champion outpunched Brazil's Eravio Edison 5-0, thus assuring himself of at least a bronze medal.

Meanwhile, Manjeet Singh (+91kg), who is playing his first senior international tournament, notched up an easy 4-0 win against Irish boxer Gytis Lisinskas to progress into the quarter-

finals. The Haryana boxer will face Armenian Gurchen Hovhannisyan in the last-8 match later on Thursday.

Jyoti Gullia (51kg), Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg) and Deepak Kumar (52kg) are the other Indians who will play their quarter-final bouts on Thursday. The 2017 Youth World Champion Gullia, who stunned two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaybay in the last round, will be up against Romanian boxer Lacramioara Perijoc while Baghyabati will face stiff challenge from world championship bronze medalist Naomi Graham of the US.

Asian Championship silver medalist Deepak will play against Bulgaria's Darislaw Vasilev.

TODAY'S MATCH

NorthEast United FC vs Kerala Blasters FC

at Tilak Maidan Stadium 7.30pm

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

ONE RESERVE SEAT

RESULT

Jamshedpur FC beat Bengaluru FC 3-2

ISL STANDINGS

CLUB	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
ATK Mohun Bagan	19	12	4	3	28	13	15	40
Mumbai City FC	19	11	4	3	33	18	15	37
FC Goa	19	7	9	3	31	31	23	30
NorthEast United FC	19	7	9	3	29	25	4	30
Hyderabad FC	19	6	10	3	27	19	8	28
Jamshedpur FC	20	7	6	7	21	22	-1	27
Bengaluru FC	20	5	7	8	26	28	-2	22
Chennaiyin FC	20	3	11	6	17	23	-6	20
SC East Bengal	19	3	8	8	17	27	-10	17
Kerala Blasters FC	19	3	8	8	23	34	-11	17
Odisha FC	19	1	6	12	19	39	-20	9