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WINDOWS

A bride wears a face mask during her wedding ceremony, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in Jabalpur on Wednesday

Jana Sena for Amaravati as AP's capital

NEW DELHI: Jana Sena is all for continuing Amaravati as the Capital of Andhra Pradesh and its stand is unflinching in this regard. This was disclosed by Pawan Kalyan after his meeting with BJP national president JP Nadda here on Wednesday. Pawan Kalyan met the BJP leadership along with his deputy Nadendra Manohar to discuss various issues, including the Tirupati by-election candidacy. Later speaking to the media, Pawan Kalyan said, "even Nadda is of the view that Amaravati should continue. Changing capitals with the change in regime was not advisable. Jana Sena would stand by the farmers of Amaravati till the end." He also said that the Centre has assured him that it was Centre's responsibility to complete the Polavaram project and there was no going back on its commitment. The project works should be such that they suit the people and not the requirements of leaders, Nadda reportedly told Pawan. Manohar said they had also discussed issues like corruption in the state, desecration of temples, and law and order situation in Andhra Pradesh. To a question on Jana Sena fielding its candidate in the Tirupati by-election, he said the BJP would be forming a committee to thrash out the issue.

SFJ announces 'global referendum' in Aug 2021

NEW DELHI: Banned secessionist outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) on Wednesday announced to organise a "global referendum" from the UK on August 15, 2021. The group's US-based General Counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannu circulated the anti-India message on some specific internet platforms regarding the move.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

APPARELS FORMALS

I'm trying hard, sir. Ever since this work-from-home trend started, people are buying only shirts, not trousers!

'Jallikattu' India's official entry for the Oscars

NEW DELHI

LlJO Jose Pellissery's Jallikattu has been chosen as the country's official entry for the 2021 Oscars in the best foreign language film category. This 2019 Malayalam film tells the story of a massive buffalo and the village that gets involved in hunting it. It's an adaptation of the short story Maoist by S Hareesh, who recently won the JCB Prize for Literature for his novel Moustache. Jallikattu was chosen out of 27 films. Some of the



other movies in the race to be India's entry for the Oscars 2021 were The Disciple, Shakuntala Devi, Shikara, Gunjan Saxena, Chhapaak, AK vs AK, Gulabo Sitabo, Bhonsle, Chhalaang, Eeb Allay Ooo!,

Check Post, Atkan Chatkan, Serious Men, Bulbul, Kaamyaab, The Sky is Pink, Chintu ka Birthday and Bittersweet. Sharing the reason behind choosing Jallikattu, Rahul Rawail, Chairman, Jury Board –

Cyclone Nivar begins its onslaught

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

SEVERE cyclonic storm Nivar will intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm over the next few hours and cross the coast between Tamil Nadu and Puducherry early on Thursday, the India Meteorological Department said. Under its influence, gusty winds and rains lashed parts of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday leaving several areas inundated and authorities have housed over one lakh people in shelters as 'Nivar' hurtled towards the coast.

While Chief Minister K Palaniswami declared Thursday a public holiday for 13 districts, a government order included three more districts considering the safety of people in view of the cyclone.

As a precautionary measure, electricity distribution was stopped to consumers in several regions falling under such districts and especially areas that have overhead power transmis-

- Yet to make landfall; likely between TN-Puducherry coast
- Flights, trains, buses halted; Over 1 lakh people evacuated



Fishermen move their boats to a safer place near Mamallapuram before the landfall of Cyclone Nivar, in Mamallapuram on Wednesday

sion lines witnessed power cut since noon.

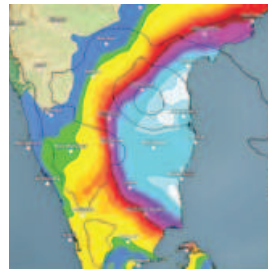
Police personnel placed barricades in arterial roads and important intersections in coastal districts to bar movement of vehicles

and the government appealed to the people to stay indoors.

Chennai airport authorities said Aircraft operations at the airport will remain suspended from 7pm of No-

vember 25 till 7am of November 26. The decision was taken considering the safety aspect of passengers and the severity of the approaching cyclone, they said.

Southern Railway said



eight trains including the Danapur - KSR Bengaluru Special were diverted skipping Chennai and 10 trains including the Chennai Central-Coimbatore Special were cancelled.

The Chennai Metro Rail, which operated minimum services, said operations would end by 8 pm and services would resume on Thursday depending on the weather.

The storm, 250 km off Chennai and 190 km and 180 km from Puducherry and Cuddalore respectively, is very likely to move north-westwards and cross coasts as a "very severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 120-130 kmph gusting to 145 kmph."

Under the influence of the cyclone, coastal and north interior Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kariakal regions are likely to receive rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy showers at a few places and extremely heavy rains at isolated places.

"Even after the landfall, the system is likely to maintain its cyclonic intensity for about 6 hours and weaken gradually," the weather office said in its bulletin.

Continued on Page 5

No further lockdown; night curfew allowed

- Centre issues new Covid guidelines from Dec 1
- States can impose curbs in containment zones only

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI



will remain in force till December 31.

However, the State governments need to consult with the Central government over imposition of any local lockdown outside the containment zones. The guidelines also called for increased surveillance in containment zones. The Centre said States can impose additional fines and

curbs on gatherings.

The guidelines come as Maharashtra and Delhi have registered a spike in Covid cases due to the increased footfall in public places during the festival season. States like Gujarat and Punjab have imposed night curfews in major cities and other Covid affected areas.

Continued on Page 5

CONG VETERAN FALLS TO COVID Ahmed Patel dies at 71

NEW DELHI

SENIOR Congress leader Ahmed Patel, one of Sonia Gandhi's closest political advisers, died at a Gurgaon hospital on Wednesday morning. He was 71. The veteran politician had been at Medanta Hospital since his health worsened after a Covid infection. In a tweet at around 4 am, his son, Faisal Patel, said the Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat died at 3.30 am.

"With profound grief & sorrow, I regret to announce the sad and untimely demise of my fa-



ther, Ahmed Patel at 25/11/2020, 03:30am..." he tweeted, requesting all the well-wishers to adhere to Covid-19 regulations by avoiding mass gatherings. "...also maintain social distancing norms at all times," Faisal Patel said in the statement.

Continued on Page 5

Delhi riots a 'terrorist activity': say cops

NEW DELHI

THE use of deadly weapons during the widespread riots in the national capital in February, which had resulted in the death of a police personnel and over 50 civilians, falls under the definition of a 'terrorist activity', the Delhi Police said in a supplementary chargesheet in a case related to the alleged larger conspiracy in the communal violence. The supplementary chargesheet has been filed against former JNU student Umar Khalid, university's research scholar Sharjeel Imam and Faizan Khan.

Continued on Page 5

Delhi air quality turns 'severe'

NEW DELHI

DELHI'S overall air quality deteriorated to the 'severe' category from 'very poor' on Wednesday morning. The national capital's AQI was in 'severe' category on November 15 the last time but after that it had improved and remained in either 'poor' or 'moderate' category until November 22. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) mobile app, SAMEER, the city's air



quality index (AQI) was recorded at 401. It was 388 on Tuesday. The AQI in the city was 302 on Monday,

274 on Sunday, 251 on Saturday, 296 on Friday and 283 on Thursday.

Continued on Page 5

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DIY fashion trends to try

Are you guilty of excessive online shopping during the pandemic? You're not the only one.

While stores have largely reopened amid the pandemic, many consumers are still opting to shop from home. If you're looking to treat yourself to a few new looks but trying to save money, put down your credit card and work with your existing wardrobe. Chances are, you have a lot of neglected clothes in your closet. Here are few easy and affordable fashion hacks to transform clothes you already own.

Tie-dye sweats

Tying your clothes up with rubber bands will help you achieve the perfect tie-dye look. All you have to do is find some white cotton sweatshirts, sweatpants, zip-up jackets or shorts (pre-wash if they're new). Rinse your garments, rubber band them, then tie dye away – with as many or few colors as you'd like. Once you're done, place the wet clothes in a plastic bag (to prevent a mess) for 6 to 8 hours before washing.

Acid-washed clothing

If the tie-dye is too colorful for you, no worries. You can create a vintage splattered look on your dark-colored T-shirts with some bleach or even stencil your own design with a Chlorox bleach pen. Draw a design, let it sit for an hour, and when you come back, it might get a little dry. Just brush off that top layer of the crustiness, let it sit again, then wash the item and you now have your own white design.

Embroidered T-shirt pocket

An embroidery hoop will make it easier for you to sew a clean, cute pattern. If you have a T-shirt that's looking too plain, there's an easy way to personalise your look. With a needle and thread, you can embroider a cute little design, such as a strawberry, smiley face, flower or heart, onto the pocket of your T-shirt. For beginners, it may help to watch YouTube tutorials or print out and trace your desired image for cleaner results.

Painted-pocket denim

Using smaller brushes will help you paint a cleaner design. Your denim jeans might all be looking the same, so try spicing them up with acrylic paint. Whether you want to paint the bottom of your flares or just the back pockets, it's a fun activity to create a personalised work of art that will get you compliments. Just make sure to add a fabric medium or acrylic polymer to prevent the paint from cracking.

Boost your immunity with these warming teas

CHAI IS LOADED WITH ANTIOXIDANTS WHICH HELP PREVENT FREE RADICAL DAMAGE. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT LIMITED CONSUMPTION OF THIS BREW HAS PROVEN BENEFICIAL FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES AND MULTIPLE CANCERS

The nip in the air means winter is coming and hand in hand comes the winter flu. So I ask you to reach out to the popular Indian brew – a warm cup of chai. A Buddhist legend claims that tea leaves were grown from the eyelashes of Lord Buddha as he plucked one of his own eyelashes to banish sleep which kept interfering with his concentration during meditation.

Let me tell you, this 2500 year old brew, is a part of the Indian DNA. For all, chai is a powerful potion of good health. I say this brew is extraordinary not just in taste but also because of its innumerable health benefits too. Chai is loaded with antioxidants which help prevent free radical damage. Research shows that limited consumption of this brew has proven beneficial for cardiovascular diseases and multiple cancers.

Here are some of the ways you can incorporate the different Indian Chai's during the



Naini Setalvad

winter months:

Black tea

If you feel a cough coming on, I say switch over to this curing tea. Simply boil dry black tea ground leaves in water without milk, strain and sip on it. The tannins from this tea may aid in soothing irritation in the throat. My tip: squeeze in lemon juice or put some lemon slices.

Mint tea

I have seen the wonders of this tea provide relief to sore throats and coughs. Take a few mint leaves, boil in water, strain and consume. You can have it plain or put in a dash of milk or squeeze lime in it.

Kahwa

The Kashmiri kahwa is India's most famous kahwa. Made from boiling water with saffron strands, almond slivers, cinnamon, cloves and cardamom pods. The saffron contains at least 2 carotenoids crocin and crocetin plus 2 phytochemicals making it a powerful antioxidant.

Masala chai

This tea brings wonderful warmth to the body with its healing effects from the ground green cardamom pods, cinnamon sticks, cloves, ginger, black peppercorn and dry black tea leaves. Cinnamon is helpful for insulin resistance, cardamom is an anti-depressant and cloves



possess anti-inflammatory properties to relieve general pains and inflammations.

Green tea

This refreshing drink has thermogenic properties that helps keep you warm. It promotes healthy cell growth and is best had without milk and any sweetener.

Chai tea

This is your simple homemade

chai. Just remember to replace the sugar with stevia.

I believe that chai for an Indian is an antidote, making one feel solace with its imbibing flavours. A good cup of tea refreshes places where other beverages cannot reach. If you want to sweeten these brews, add stevia instead of sugar. Remember to have not more than 2-3 cups of any of these chai's through the day with the last cup being before 4 pm.

Make your skin look younger with bottle gourd

Bottle gourd might not sound as a delight for your taste buds but knowing about the benefits it has on your skin, you will surely fall in love with this pale veggie. Bottle gourd (commonly known as lauki/ghiya) not only gives you the right nutrition to your body, but it also ups your beauty quotient.

Wrinkle-free skin

With powerhouse nutrients such as vitamin C and zinc, bottle gourd helps in tackling premature ageing. The juice helps slow down cell ageing and prevents wrinkles from appearing on the face. You can have the lauki cooked or in the juice form for consumption. You can also apply the juice externally on your face and neck area for beautiful skin.

For that natural glow

Loaded with minerals, antioxidants and vitamins, bottle gourd juice can do wonders to your skin, lending it a healthy glow. Use it as your morning mantra as it aids



Loaded with minerals, antioxidants and vitamins, bottle gourd juice can do wonders to your skin, lending it a healthy glow. Use it as your morning mantra as it aids proper functioning of your digestive system and makes your skin radiant. Have a glass full of bottle gourd juice every morning on a regular basis for better results

proper functioning of your digestive system and makes your skin radiant. Have a glass full of bottle gourd juice every morning on a regular basis for better results.

Haircare

You will be shocked to learn that the staple from your kitchen can also tackle and control pre-

mature greying of hair. It contains vitamin B that has a cooling effect on your scalp and thus, helps reduce discolouration and frizziness of your natural hair. Regular intake of bottle gourd can also control hair fall. Grate a few pieces of bottle gourd and mix it with yoghurt or apple cider vinegar and use as a hair pack.

You will be relieved of your hair problems after regular usage.

Reduces pimples and acne

Bottle gourd juice effectively cleanses the system and keeps dirt, pollution and oil under control. Hence it balances the secretion of oil from the pores which in turn reduces pimples and breakouts. You can consume it cooked or as a juice to combat your skin related problems.

Smooth and clear skin

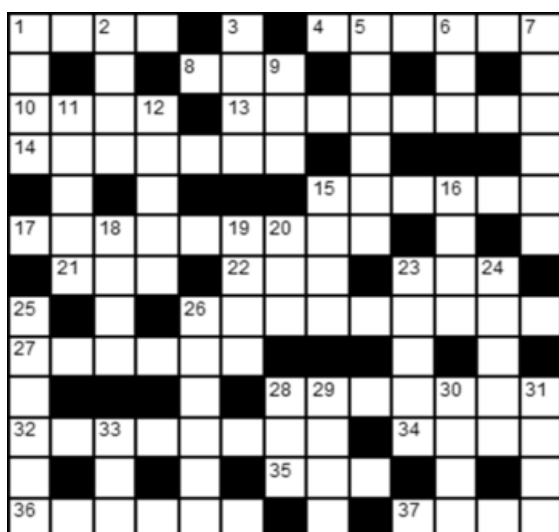
As bottle gourd purifies the blood, it helps in making the skin smooth and supple. It cleanses the body internally which eventually leads to healthy, glowing and clear skin. Make a smoothening face pack using cucumber and bottle gourd in equal proportions. You can also add besan and curd if you wish. Apply it on your face for around twenty minutes and wash off with warm water. It will nourish your skin to the core and give it a butter-smooth feel at the same time.

Puffy eyes

You can get rid of your eye bags naturally using bottle gourd. It is the cooling effect and water content of the vegetable that does the trick. The remedy also works to relax and relieve your eyes. Press bottle gourd round slices onto your eyes and lie down relaxed. Wait for 20 minutes and then remove the slices. You will love the soothing impact it will have on your eyes.

Word of caution

As per the doctors, you must avoid consuming bottle gourd which is bitter in taste as it leads to abdominal pain. Also, try not to mix the juice with any other vegetable juice for consumption. So, you have seen that the not-so-appealing and not-so-favourite vegetable has in fact all the qualities to be number 'one'. And it is also easy and hassle-free to have it in your kitchen anytime. So, don't wait and start using the miraculous waxy green veggie to your health and beauty advantages.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 25

CROSSWORD

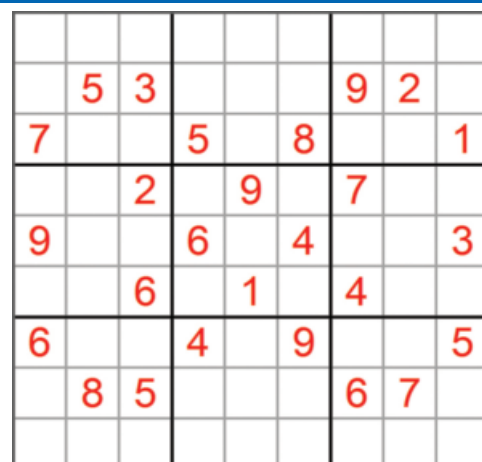
Across

- 1 The amount owed (4)
- 4 ___ surrender : humiliating defeat (6)
- 8 Hawaiian garland (3)
- 10 Monkeys (4)
- 13 First name of Lenin; Russian saint (8)
- 14 Deep-seated (7)
- 15 Tenant's payment (6)
- 17 Paint covering (9)
- 21 Do needlework ? (3)
- 22 Possess (3)
- 23 Child (3)
- 26 Lawyer (9)
- 27 Maintenance (6)
- 28 Rubdown (7)
- 32 Precisely (2,3,3)
- 34 Capital of Ukraine (4)
- 35 Summit (3)
- 36 Extents or limits (6)
- 37 John from Spain (4)

Down

- 1 Male swine (4)
- 2 Told an untruth (4)
- 3 Hindu deity (4)
- 5 Limit of funds (6)
- 6 Tree - "Mel" anagram ? (3)
- 7 Pleasurable feeling (6)
- 9 Not well (3)
- 11 Hurts (5)
- 12 Muscularity (5)
- 15 Indian queen (4)
- 16 Stupid one ? (4)
- 18 Part of a ship (4)
- 19 Poultry enclosure (4)
- 20 Nocturnal bird (3)
- 23 Booth or cubicle (5)
- 24 Evade (5)
- 25 Attempt to gratify (6)
- 26 Harsh (6)
- 28 Witty remark (3)
- 29 Minimal matter (4)
- 30 Hokkaido native (4)
- 31 Level (4)
- 33 Large cask (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 25

NEWS ROUNDUP

Manushi Chhillar: Plant-based diet works better for me

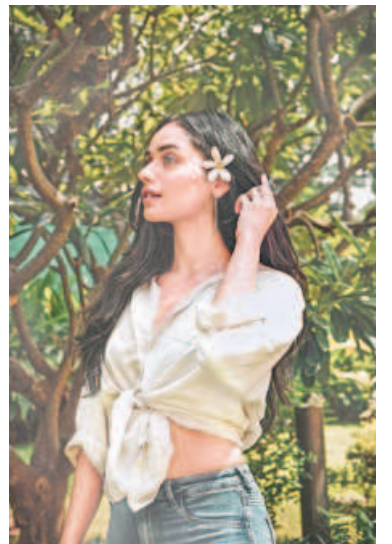
Actress Manushi Chhillar says being a vegetarian is more of a personal choice for her, and shared that it makes her feel fitter and healthier.

On International Meatless Day, Manushi said, "For me, being vegetarian was more of a personal choice. It has been and will always be a way of life for me because my parents are vegetarians and I have inculcated this through them. However, they never forced this on me. I made my choice after I realised that it suits me remarkably and makes me feel fitter and healthier."

Manushi, who will enter Bollywood in 2021, says she enjoys eating clean. "I have since then believed in eating clean and I have realised over the years that a plant based diet works better for me. I can't point out one negative to eating like this. I'm a firm believer of this diet and I would recommend it to people who would want to try it out and see if they feel different after being on it. Being a vegetarian is an integral part of my life and I have realised multiple benefits due to my life choice," she revealed.

Manushi will make her Bollywood debut opposite Akshay Kumar in the upcoming historical drama, "Prithviraj".

"Prithviraj", based on the life and heroism of Prithviraj Chauhan. The film is directed by Dr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi, who helmed television epic "Chanakya" and the period drama "Pinjar".



Raj's Champa Ram beats all odds to get into IIT Madras

JAIPUR

Resident of a remote village in Rajasthan's Jodhpur District, Champa Ram recently secured admission in IIT Madras - Civil Engineering department after beating all odds including losing his mother and father while he was preparing for the IIT.

An alumnus of Satya Bharti School, Jatibhandu, Jodhpur, his story is both inspiring as well as heartening. Champa Ram passed class VIII from Satya Bharti School and joined Navodaya Vidyalaya.

He scored a perfect CGPA of 10 in Class X Board Exams in 2017. Unfortunately, in the same year, he lost his father. Despite the irreplaceable loss, he went on to

score 93.6% in his Class XII Board Exams. Adversity didn't leave him yet as his ailing mother passed away during his preparations for the IIT JEE entrance exams, leaving the responsibility of running the family on the shoulders of his eldest brother.

Despite all these difficulties, he worked hard and passed the entrance exam, scoring AIR 11,036 and Category Rank 2180, this year. He secured a seat to pursue Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. He is now looking forward to starting his online classes with a basic smartphone, gifted by his brother.

Champa Ram belonged to a remote village in Rajasthan where education was not the norm until Bharti



Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, opened a school in the area.

Champa Ram said, "I used to study for 6-8 hours after school hours in 10th and 12th class. After hearing

about Satya Bharti School, my family was elated as I received free education, free uniform and in fact everything was taken care by the school. I am grateful to Bharti Foundation for providing me this platform to

study and attain greater heights," he added.

Congratulating Champa Ram, Mamta Saikia, CEO, Bharti Foundation, said, "We are working to improve the accessibility and quality of education across rural India. At Bharti Foundation, we believe all children are capable of excelling. Our focus is all round development which plays a vital role in overcoming challenges and transforming them into good human beings and role models for society".

"In the coming months, our focus would remain on ensuring quality education for the children studying in our rural schools and to incorporate use of phone based education given the current circumstances when schools cannot open due to Covid-19," she said.

'DELHI CHALO' AGITATION AGAINST FARM LAWS

Protesting farmers face water cannons, march on

CHANDIGARH

Tens of thousands of farmers from Punjab and Haryana on Wednesday started their movement towards the national capital for their 'Delhi Chalo' agitation against the three Central farm laws. Enroute, they had major scuffles with the Haryana Police which failed to stop them from proceeding further despite heavy deployment of men and use of water cannons.

However, there was no report of any violence or the use of teargas shells or batons.

As a preventive step, the BJP-ruled Haryana sealed all its major entry points along the Punjab border and also imposed Section 144 of the CrPC to prevent the assembly of protesters. The major scuffle between the farmers and the police broke out at the Shambhu border near Ambala city when the farmers broke the blockades and managed to proceed to Delhi for staging a demonstration.

Despite the use of water cannons, the protesting farmers, comprising men and women -- both young and old -- and school and college students riding tractor-trailers, cars and motorcycles, managed to enter Haryana from Punjab. They were later joined by thousands of their counterparts from Haryana, led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) state chief Gurnam Singh Charuni. As they reached Kuruk-

shetra district, the local farmers joined them.

"The police must release our activists and vehicles. We will march towards Delhi, breaking the barricades," Charuni said.

The farmers were marching towards Sonapat, where they will stay overnight and leave for Delhi on Thursday morning.

The police had taken nearly 100 farmer leaders from Haryana into "preventive custody".

As per the police estimates, around 3,00,000 farmers from both the states are set to reach Delhi as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' agitation.

BKU Punjab President Balbir Singh Rajewal said Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has got the interstate borders sealed for Punjab farmers to prove that "Punjab is not part of India".

The farmers affiliated to 33 organisations are part of the United Farmers Front, an all-India body of over 470 farmers' unions that will participate in the indefinite protest in the national capital from November 26.

The protesting farmers have threatened to block all the roads leading to Delhi if they are denied the permission to travel towards the national capital. Barred from entering Haryana, the leaders of farmers' organisations announced that they will sit on 'dharna' at the Dabwali barrier between Bathinda and Sirsa districts for a week.



Dal Khalsa member before travelling to Delhi in support of farmers' protest against the farm reform bills, in Amritsar on Wednesday

As a preventive step, the BJP-ruled Haryana sealed all its major entry points along the Punjab border and also imposed Section 144

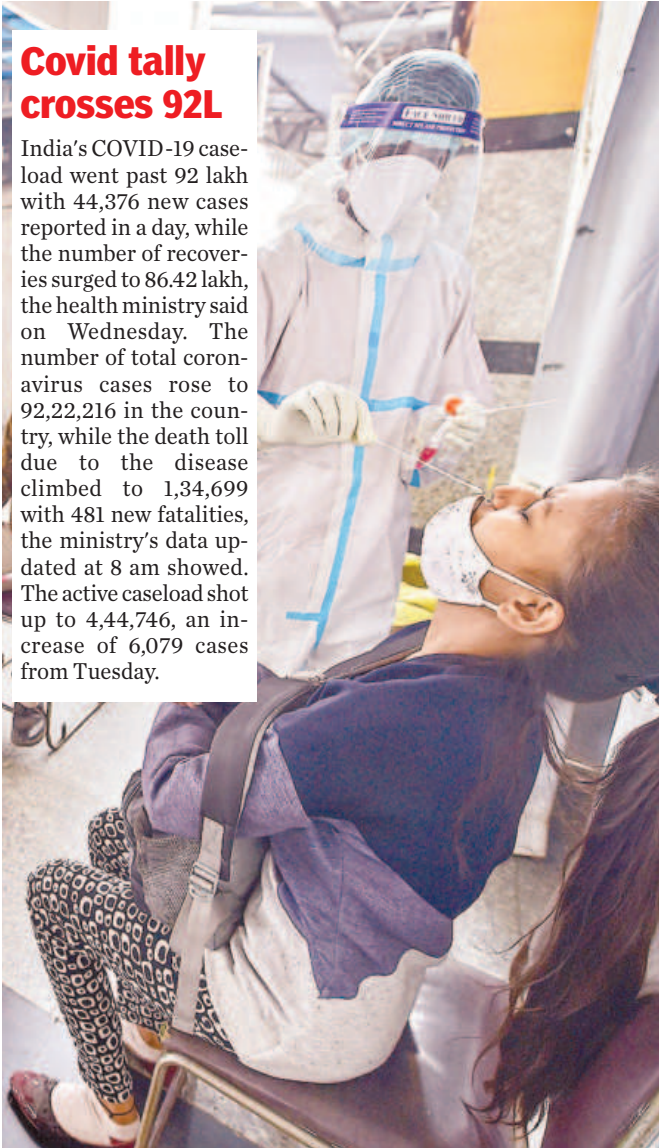
1984 riots: Key witness against Tytler alleges threat

NEW DELHI

Abhishek Verma, one of the key witnesses in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case involving former Congress MP Jagdish Tytler, has filed a complaint alleging that he is being threatened.

Verma has sent his complaint to the SHO of Maidangarhi police station, saying, "I am the main witness in the case of CBI vs Jagdish Tytler for the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. I have been receiving threats by email, phone calls and letters from the day I was included as the witness." Controversial arms dealer Verma further added that the threats have been advanced not only to him, but also to the trial court judge, who was hearing this case, in December 2019. "Today I have received another threat on my official email. In the mail, Congress supporters who are the henchmen of Jagdish Tytler have not only threatened to blow me up with a bomb, but also the judges trying the case against Tytler," Verma said.

The latest threat mail received by Verma reportedly said "No matter how many bodyguards you keep, you won't be able to escape because we would blow up your house and car with RDX. You won't be able to attend the trial of this case."



A health worker, wearing protective gear, collects swab sample of a passenger at Nizamuddin Railway Station in New Delhi on Wednesday

Covid tally crosses 92L

India's COVID-19 caseload went past 92 lakh with 44,376 new cases reported in a day, while the number of recoveries surged to 86.42 lakh, the health ministry said on Wednesday. The number of total coronavirus cases rose to 92,22,216 in the country, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 1,34,699 with 481 new fatalities, the ministry's data updated at 8 am showed. The active caseload shot up to 4,44,746, an increase of 6,079 cases from Tuesday.

Biden first US Prez candidate to win over 80 mn votes

WASHINGTON

Joe Biden has become the US first presidential candidate to win over 80 million votes, with his record-breaking number of popular votes still likely to increase as ballots continue to be counted across the nation, according to a media report on Wednesday. President-elect Biden won more than 80,011,000 votes as of Tuesday, while President Donald Trump had more than 73,800,000 votes.

Trump's votes make him the candidate to win the second-highest number of popular votes in American history, CNN reported. Biden, a Democrat, has secured 306 electoral votes, while Trump, a Republican has 232.

The winner in the race to the White House should get at least 270 electoral votes from the 538-member Electoral College.

Americans voted by mail in record numbers this year to protect themselves from exposure to coronavirus in the middle of a global pandemic, and experts had warned for months that there would be a lengthy vote count that could extend for days following Election Day on November 3. The new record set by Biden reinforces his decisive win over Trump, who has yet to concede defeat.

Indian-origin MP in New Zealand takes oath in Sanskrit

MELBOURNE

Dr Gaurav Sharma, one of the youngest and newly-elected MPs in New Zealand, on Wednesday took oath in Sanskrit in the country's Parliament. Sharma, 33, hailing from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur, was recently elected as the Member of Parliament from the Labour Party for Hamilton West in New Zealand.

India's High Commissioner to New Zealand and Samoa, Muktesh Pardeshi said on Twitter that Sharma took oath first in "New Zealand's indigenous Maori language, followed by India's classical language - Sanskrit, showing deep respect for cultural traditions of both India and New Zealand."

Sharma, who did his MBBS from Auckland and MBA from Washington, is working as a General Practitioner (GP) in Newton, Hamilton. He has previously been involved in public health, policy, medicine and consulting in New Zealand, Spain, the US, Nepal, Vietnam, Mongolia, Switzerland and India.

Replying to a Twitter user who asked why he didn't take oath in Hindi, Sharma said it is hard to keep everyone happy so he decided Sanskrit as it pays homage to all the Indian languages. "To be honest I did think of that, but then there was the question of doing it in Pahari (my first language) or Punjabi. Hard to keep everyone happy. Sanskrit made sense as it pays homage to all the Indian languages (including the many I can't speak)," he said in a tweet. Sharma, who had unsuccessfully fought elections in 2017, defeated Tim Macindoe of the National Party this year. Earlier this month, Priyanka Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern inducted five new ministers into her executive.



Bengal has turned into 2nd Kashmir: State BJP chief

KOLKATA

West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh on Wednesday said the state has turned into "second Kashmir" as terrorists are being arrested every day and illegal bomb-making factories are being unearthed every next day. The ruling TMC slammed Ghosh for his comments and asked him to direct his attention to BJP-ruled UP, where the "rule of law has ceased to exist".

"West Bengal has turned into second Kashmir. Everyday terrorists are being arrested and illegal bomb-making factories are being unearthed every next day. The only factory that is working here is the bomb-making factory," Ghosh said while addressing a 'Cha-Chakra' (chat over a cup of tea) programme in Birbhum district.

His comments drew sharp reactions from the Trinamool Congress, which accused Ghosh of trying to malign the state's image. "Dilip Ghosh in collusion with outsiders is trying to malign West Bengal's image. Before commenting on the situation in the state, he should direct his attention to BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, where the rule of law has ceased to exist," senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said.

26/11: I wanted an open trial for the world, says Ujjwal Nikam

MUMBAI

As India prepares to observe the 12th anniversary of the dastardly Nov. 26, 2008 (26/11) terror strikes in the country's commercial capital Mumbai, celebrated lawyer Padmashri Ujjwal Nikam revealed how in 2009, he insisted on a "public trial" in the case.

"Actually, the government considered holding an 'in-camera trial', given its sensitive nature with domestic, regional and global political ramifications, besides the massive security concerns. I strongly urged that there should be an open, transparent trial, under full scrutiny of the world," Nikam, who was the Special Public Prosecutor in the case, told IANS.

Given the keen interest all over, the government nodded its approval -- and what un-

folded was the biggest legal war within the confines of a high-security Special Court set up inside the Arthur Road Central Jail, in front of the domestic and international media, leaving them stunned.

With a battery of lawyers and investigators, SPP Nikam directed the government charge against the sole surviving terrorist Ajmal Amir Kasab, nabbed alive, but only after a daredevil policeman Tukaram Gopal Ombale sacrificed his own life in the valiant effort in the early hours of that cool morning of Nov. 29 (2008).

Probably, it was the first time in the world that a savage gun-toting terrorist was caught red-handed as he unleashed mayhem along with his 9 associates, who were gunned down at various locations by the security forces in the 60-hour full-fledged battle in South Mumbai. Starting around late night of Nov. 26,



2008, the attackers struck with clinical precision at a dozen high-profile public locations, leaving a trail of massive destruction and the final death count of 166, plus 300 injured.

"India can proudly proclaim that it was an unprecedented, open-court trial of a brutal terrorist, never witnessed before by the world, and has become a torch-bearer on

many counts, and finally resulted in the noose for Kasab (Nov. 21, 2012)," said Nikam, 67, honoured with a Padmashri (2016).

According to the SPP, the most important aspect of the trial was its 'secular' nature, given the touchy political or religious overtones involved at different levels.

The trial Special Judge M. L. Tahliyani, the SPP Nikam, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (Mrs.) Rama V. Sawant-Vagule, (who recorded Kasab's maiden statement post-arrest early morning of Nov. 29, 2008), the government-appointed lawyers defending Kasab at different points - Abbas Kazmi, K. P. Pawar, Amin Solkar and (Ms) Farhana Shah - hailed from different religious backgrounds.

Nevertheless, they worked in a thoroughly professional manner, with a common aim for 'justice', but punctuated by many antics, often leading to murky or mirthful brawls be-

tween the tough prosecution and the aggressive defence, while the country and world watched closely.

For instance, the defence started by lobbing a legal grenade claiming "Kasab was a minor" which caught the prosecution unawares and created a huge fracas, while the prosecution once hit back, frowning at the delay tactics by the defence, and contended how "Kasab is feasting on Mutton Biryani in jail" - though both declarations proved false later!

He terms this as "a tribute to the immense respect and credibility of the Indian justice system" domestically and internationally, as there have "been absolutely no questions raised" on the manner in which the trial was conducted, the punishment handed out, Kasab given full opportunity right up to the President of India, and finally being executed.

KCR should set his own house in order first

‘GALLI elections’, as the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) calls it, are now posing a challenge to the ruling party. Ever since the pink party came to power in 2014, it never looked back and had been on a winning spree in all elections. Now Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is contemplating to take the fight to Delhi saying that the two national parties – the Congress and the BJP – had failed in ensuring country’s growth and are bereft of ideas.

Rao has been toying with the idea of moving over to national politics for some time. His first attempt was before the last general elections when he went around some States like West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to enlist support for his yatra towards Delhi. Some leaders like Hemant Soren and Akhilesh Yadav had met Rao in Hyderabad. But with the BJP getting absolute majority at the

Centre, the idea of a federal front was put on back burner.

KCR claims that starting as a one-man army, he had achieved the separate State and though he just has nine MPs in the Lok Sabha, he can succeed in influencing the national politics and can emerge as the next Desh ki Neta. It now remains to be seen how many regional party leaders would agree to stand by him and how effective they can be in reducing the popularity of Modi.

The Bihar elections proved that Modi is still the USP of the BJP. Though Chandrashekar Rao has an advantage of being fluent in Telugu and good knowledge of Hindi and English, the fact is the kind of Hindi he speaks and the kind of Hindi the cow belt would accept are different. In fact, the biggest hurdle would be to bring all regional chieftains on one platform and make them accept him as their leader.

Moreover, getting nod for implementing the policies which he says only he can conceive, is also not an easy task particularly when one must lead a coalition government. The path ahead is certainly a rough one. Rao is fully aware of the fact that the BJP, unlike in the past, is now more serious in gaining foothold in Telangana State and for that it is necessary for the saffron party to win respectable number of seats and that is why Delhi leaders have been roped in for Galli elections.

The pink party also realised that there was some undercurrent particularly among the youth. They also realised that it was their overconfidence that made them lose Dubbaka by-election. The BJP has emerged as the frontrunner to fill the political vacuum. Hence it does not want to take any chance in the Baldia elections. If it does not retain its present position in GHMC, it would be difficult to pursue

with its high dreams of going national.

The BJP which has tasted success in Dubbaka, the first election after the new state unit president Bandi Sanjay took over, also does not want to lose an opportunity which could help them in emerging as the major Opposition party in the next general elections. But in the process, parties and leaders appear to be losing their balance and the campaign is turning more into rabbling.

While the BJP State president said there would be surgical strike on old city, the AIMIM reacted demanding the government to first demolish the encroachment in Hussain Sagar which includes PV Ghat and NTR Ghat. The focus of all political parties appears to be more on destructive politics rather than progressive politics. Every party tries to justify their statements saying that what they said was nothing when compared to their political rivals. Before these leaders embark on changing the face of the country, they should first ensure that good political culture is developed in the State.

PART - I

The rich treasure of Indian languages

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

ON account of the combination of a number of fortuitous circumstances I am comfortable with speaking several languages. My mother tongue is Telugu. I was born in Chennai, and spent the first ten years of my life there. Tamil was, in fact, the language I learnt first. Even to this day I can carry on a conversation fluently in Tamil, although the dialect I use is one which is spoken in Chennai, which is not quite as pure as the version which is common in the southern regions of Tamil Nadu.

I often regret not having learnt to read or write that wonderful language, especially as it is regarded as the oldest language in the world whose origin dates back to more than 5000 years ago. Readers might be interested in knowing that Gopal Krishna Gandhi the grandson of Gandhiji and C.R. Rajagopalachari, who belongs to my batch of the IAS, naturally spoke Tamil (his

mother tongue), and Gujarati (which was his father’s language as Mahatma Gandhi’s son had married Rajaji’s daughter). Upon selection to the service opted for Tamil Nadu cadre and the rest, as we all know, is history.

Subsequently, when we moved to Hyderabad in 1955, I was still young enough to learn quickly the local version of Urdu (which, as is well known, is a refreshingly unique variety spoken nowhere else).

Urdu is a bit like the north Indian ‘Khichdi’ or, for that matter, the South Indian dish ‘Avial’. A rich and robust mixture of several tongues such as Telugu, Marathi, Kannada and the North Indian version of Urdu, it is truly a remarkable language. Words like ‘Nakko’ a variant of the Marathi ‘Naka’ and ‘Kanne’ meaning ‘with’ have served to enrich its lexicon. It also has many endearing usages borrowed from Telugu. For instance, in Telugu, it is common to say “it cannot become this” for saying “it is not this”. And Hyderabad Urdu is the only version of that language which has borrowed this expression. That is why one hears things like “Yeh mera nahin hota”, instead of “Yeh mera nahin hai”.

I stayed with my parents in Delhi for three years, doing my graduation, during which time I simply fell head over heels in love with Punjabi. I must confess, however that, while I can understand what is spoken, and enjoy

Shavian alphabet	
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Property tax revision only to make ULBs self-sufficient: Botcha

- Says the State govt revised the tax following the suggestions from Centre and to provide better services to people
- Points out that the new system is already being implemented in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra
- The percentage of the property tax so fixed, is between 0.10% and 0.50% of the capital value (CV) for residential buildings and it's between 0.2% to 2% for non-residential buildings
- It is mentioned in the G.O that the increased tax shall be limited to 15% of the existing tax and the Chief Minister is clear in his intentions not to burden the people with revised taxation system, he says

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TADEPALLI

MINISTER for Municipal Administration Botcha Satyanarayana condemned the reports in a section of media on property tax reforms and said revised method of property tax fixation is to make urban local bodies (ULBs) financially self-sufficient



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana addressing the media at the YSRCP Central office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

and would not burden the public.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, the Minister said the State government under the leadership of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken the decision after receiving suggestions from Central government to change the system of levying property tax to strengthen urban local bodies and to provide better services to people.

The Minister said the property tax, till now, is levied from annual rental value basis (ARV System) where three months rent is levied as tax per annum. The govern-

ment has revised the method of tax fixation and to levy tax based on capital value (CV) of the property, he said and added that the new taxation system is already being implemented in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

The Minister said the percentage of the property tax so fixed, is between 0.10% and 0.50% of the capital value (CV) for residential buildings and it's between 0.2% to 2% for non-residential buildings. The Chief Minister is clear in his intentions not to burden the people with revised taxation system and it is mentioned in the G.O that increased tax shall be limited to

15% of the existing tax, he said.

The Minister assured that property tax would not be increased more than 10-15 per cent and said not to believe in false propaganda of a section of media. The Minister said only Rs 50 is levied as property tax for every house with plinth area below 375 Sq ft and it is also because the property rights will be given only if taxes are paid.

The Minister said the government has decided to levy water tax between Rs 100 and Rs 350 per month for households (domestic) and is between Rs 30 and Rs 50 per kilolitre for bulk usage (like apartments), and is between Rs 60 and Rs 140 per kilolitre for commercial purposes and it is to be between Rs 40 and Rs 80 per kilolitre for industrial users. The Minister said the revised taxes are only to cover the ONM costs of the supply of water but not for additional income to the municipalities and added that the hike would be 15%.

The Minister also explained in detail on the new sewerage taxes and said they are nominal and it wouldn't burden the people. The Minister reiterated that the revenue of the municipalities would be spent on the development works of the same municipality and not for any other works.

AMARAVATI LAND SCAM

APEX COURT STAYS GAG ORDER ISSUED BY HC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court here on Wednesday stayed the gag order passed by the Andhra Pradesh High Court in a matter related to the Amaravati land scam case and issued notices in the plea of the State government challenging the High Court direction to bar investigation into the FIR filed in relation to the case.

The three-judge Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, M R Shah and Subhash Reddy was hearing a plea filed by the AP government against the gag order.

It may be recalled that the AP High Court had also stayed the investigation in the case, in which the FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau named daughters of a sitting Supreme Court judge.

On behalf of the State government, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan argued, "Can a March 23 letter (sent by the State to the CBI) be the basis of the ancillary reliefs being granted?"

The senior advocate said that a probe was called for on

September 8 while a petition challenging the same was filed on September 15. He questioned the grounds on which the interim relief was granted by the High Court.

"Should such a complaint be investigated at all or not? This writ was heard at 6.30 pm for the sake of urgency."

At this point, Justice Bhushan said that the matter needs consideration, and that the court would issue notice. Appearing for the former Advocate General, Dammalapati Srinivasa Rao, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi sought to justify the reason for approaching the High Court with such urgency.

Senior advocate Harish Salve termed the plea in the Supreme Court as a "Vote of no confidence against the High Court." He also brought up the allegations made by Jagan Mohan Reddy against the Chief Justice of the High Court.

After hearing the parties, the court issued notice in the matter, and stayed the High Court's gag order on reporting of the FIR. The matter will be heard in January next year.

'SC order expected'

Minister Botcha says the govt's intention is to have a clean and transparent investigation into the land scam

AMARAVATI

MINISTER for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana said that the State government's stand on the gag order had remained the same and expected the Supreme Court order to be in its favour. He stated that the only intention of the government is to have a clean and transparent investigation into the Amaravati land scam and thus challenged the gag order issued by the High Court. The Supreme Court had also given the orders on similar lines because justice shouldn't differ from person to person, rich or poor. Justice has to remain the same for everyone. "We will not be carried away when we get a favorable verdict nor will get dejected on adverse remarks," he said.

CENTRE'S SUPPORT

GVL dares YSRCP, TDP for public debate on projects



BJP Rajya Sabha MP GVL Narasimha Rao speaking at a press conference in Tirupati on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

CLAIMING that the Centre did its best for State development by initiating a slew of projects, BJP MP GVL Narasimha Rao dared the two regional parties YSRCP, TDP for a public debate on the Centre's development initiatives in AP since BJP came to power i.e. in the past six years.

"It is not mere jugglery of words or the reeling of statistics by BJP leaders but a hard truth that the two parties may not be able to digest or accept," he said reiterating that his party is ready for a public debate at any place the two parties leaders agree in any of the projects that were already completed.

Rao speaking to the media here on Wednesday without mincing words said that it was not the Centre but the apathy of the State government i.e. previously TDP and now YSRCP coupled with the two parties turning the multi-crore development initiatives as their adda for corruption and irregularities were the real reasons for several projects were either not grounded or moving at a snail's

pace, much to the loss of the State and its people.

The BJP leader dwelled at length on the projects sanctioned by the Centre and reeled out the full details of each and every project, the current status and the reasons delaying the projects for about 25 minutes non-stop, to drive home his point that it was the two regional parties that have to be blamed for the failure in exploiting the Central initiatives and not the BJP.

Some of the major projects that are being delayed include Vizag-Chennai-Industrial Corridor, National Investment Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) sanctioned for Chittoor district and the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Yerpedu also in Chittoor district, he said informing that for want of completion of acquisition of lands required for the projects delaying them and added, "We will make this (the apathy of YSRCP and TDP) as the election issue."

Informing that his party will take up an extensive publicity campaign on the issue, he said it was aimed to make the people of the State know what the Centre

Says projects such as Vizag-Chennai-Industrial Corridor, National Investment Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) in Chittoor district and the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Yerpedu have been delayed due to non-completion of land acquisition by the State govt

did for AP and also how the two regional parties failed in completing the projects. "With visuals i.e. from the sites of the projects that were completed we will reach the people to know the truth," he said adding that media will also be taken to all the completed initiatives in the State as part of the aggressive mass contact campaign which also includes making available the details and documents, through social media, media, booklets and pamphlets to the public know the truth.

He further said that, Chittoor district more so Tirupati Parliament constituency is the one which could get more number of projects including the Sagarmala (Rs 3,000 crore), Tirupati Smart City Project (Rs 2,000 cr) includes 61 projects like providing electric buses and also electric charging station which only few cities got in the country to check pollution, Tirupati IIT and IISER (Rs 2,000 crore).

He said the BJP-Jana Sena will go to the poll with the development agenda that includes exposing the two regional parties paying only lip sympathy to Tirupati area, he said daring the two parties to spell out with proof what they did for it.



Representatives of KIA Motors during a meeting with Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy at the latter's camp office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

KIA delegation meets AP CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

REPRESENTATIVES of KIA Motors have called on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at camp office here on Wednesday.

Thanks Jagan for the support being extended by the State govt

The delegation consisting of KIA Motors (India)MD

Kookhyun Shim, KIA Motors Legal HOD Jude Lee and Principal Advisor Dr Somashekar Reddy met the Chief Minister and thanked him for all the support the government has been extending to the company.

'Sports meets help bring out innate talent'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KORUKONDA

KANTE Aruna Kumari Memorial Tournament commenced at Burugupudi village in the mandal on Wednesday. The tournament will be held till December 14.

Inaugurating the sports meet, YSRCP leader Jakkampudi Ganesh said that it helps in tapping the hidden sports talent of rural people. Many people in rural areas have talent in sports and games and they were in the dark due to lack of encouragement.

Kante Vinay Tejas was organising the event in memory of his mother from many years. YSRCP leader congratulated

him for conducting the meet. Cricket, volleyball and kabaddi competitions were commenced.

He appealed to the rural youth to participate in the tournament to exhibit their talent. It provides a platform to come up in sports. He assured to extend necessary help for the event.

Kante Vinay Teja said that prizes to winning teams will be presented on December 14. A cash prize of Rs 10,000 will be given to cricket team who bags first position and Rs 5,000 each to Kabaddi and Volleyball teams towards first prize. YSRCP leaders A Golla Babu, KN Rao, K Durga Rao, N Rambabu and others were present.

831 new cases in 24 hrs

AMARAVATI: ONLY 831 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, taking the gross to 8,64,674.

The number of active cases fell below the 13,000 mark to 12,673 after 1,176 patients got cured in 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday. Six deaths were reported, the lowest daily count in about five months now.

Delhi riots a 'terrorist activity': say cops

Continued from P1

The case pertains to conspiracy to incite the riots, which had left 53 people dead and 748 injured. "In this case, the use of firearms, petrol bombs, acid attacks and deadly weapons on police officials on duty causing death of a police personnel and grievous injuries and other injuries to a total 208 police personnel with the intention to overawe the state and force the Central government to withdraw the CAA, NRC clearly falls in the definition of terrorist activity," police stated in the charge sheet.

Cyclone Nivar begins its onslaught

Continued from P1

Rainfall has been predicted to continue until November 27," said S Balachandran, Director, Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai. In Andhra Pradesh, the cyclone brought life to a complete standstill across Chittoor district on Wednesday. With more rains expected in the next two days after the cyclone makes a landfall, the Chittoor district administration declared a holiday for all schools in the district for 2 days.

Delhi air quality turns 'severe'

Continued from P1

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' monitoring system SAFAR had predicted improvement in the AQI for Wednesday. Stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air was 5 per cent on Tuesday. Stubble burning accounted for 6 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Monday and 12 per cent on Sunday. It was 13 per cent on Saturday, 15 per cent on Friday, 20 per cent on Thursday and eight per cent on Wednesday.

Ahmed Patel dies at 71

Continued from P1

Mourning the death of Patel, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi said she has lost an "irreplaceable comrade, a faithful colleague and a friend." "I have lost a colleague, whose entire life was dedicated to the Congress party," Sonia Gandhi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered the seasoned politician, saying "his role in strengthening the Congress Party would always be remembered." "Saddened by the demise of Ahmed Patel Ji. He spent years in public life, serving society. Known for his sharp mind, his role in strengthening the Congress Party would always be remembered. Spoke to his son Faisal and expressed condolences. May Ahmed Bhai's soul rest in peace," Modi tweeted. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called Patel a "pillar of the Congress party." "He lived and breathed Congress and stood with the party through its most difficult times. He was a tremendous asset. We will miss him. My love and condolences to Faisal, Mumtaz & the family," Gandhi tweeted. Patel's body will be taken to his hometown in Gujarat's Bharuch where his last rites will be performed tomorrow. The body will be flown to Gujarat in a chartered flight today. His last wishes were that he be buried next to his parents in his hometown.

Ahmed Patel, also the treasurer of the Congress, had tested positive for the Covid-19 on October 1 and had been admitted to the ICU of Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon on November 15.

Andhra faces brunt of Cyclone

Continued from P1

District Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu, Joint Collector Dr N Prabhakar Reddy, Telugu Ganga Special Collector SV Nageswara Rao, and others are visiting places for shifting people from low-lying areas to safer places.

Heavy rains coupled with cold breezes started in the early hours. District administration arranged helpline 1077 at the District Emergency Operations Centre for receiving round-the-clock cyclone related grievances from the people. Around 100 people from the NDRF and SDRF have been deployed at various coastal mandals for managing any untoward incidents. Services of 9th battalion located at Venkatagiri would also be utilized in addition to the disaster relief teams. The District Collector engaged Special Officers for vulnerable coastal mandals for monitoring the cyclone mitigation activities. Fire, medical and health, agriculture, police, irrigation, and revenue wings have been put on alert for swinging into action whenever necessary. Further, the District Collector

announced holidays for educational institutions in the district for three days from 25 to 27 in view of the cyclone. Nellore Municipal Corporation arranged a command control centre at its office for round-the-clock services. The toll-free number is 1800 425 1113 and the helpline number is 0861-2355350 and the city population can contact the numbers.

Further, in an accident at Bhagatsingh Colony in Venkateswara Puram area in the afternoon a driver died on the spot when two vehicles collided. Two trucks moving in the opposite direction met with an accident due to poor visibility. The driver of a vehicle died on the spot. Traffic CI Ram Nayak rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital for treatment.

Further, Minister Anil Kumar is visiting various places in the town to observe the rainfall situation. Many areas in Nellore and other mandals have been facing power outages due to uprooting of trees. Transco officials are monitoring the situation for restoring power.

Jallikattu India's official entry for the Oscars

Continued from P1

So, that's why we zeroed in on Jallikattu," Jallikattu, starring Antony Varghese, Chemban Vinod Jose, Sabumon Abdusamad and Santhya Balachandran, received rave reviews upon its release. The movie had its world premiere at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival, following which it was also screened at the 24th Busan International Film Festival. Jallikattu director Lijo Jose Pellissery won Best Director award at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Jallikattu also bagged two awards, best director and best sound mixing, at the 50th Kerala State Film Awards earlier this year.

Last year, Zoya Akhtar's Gully Boy was India's official entry to the Oscars, but the film did not get shortlisted for nominations. The last Indian film to get nominated in the category, earlier known as the Best Foreign Language Film, was Lagaan in 2002.

In the last few years, films like Village Rockstars, Newton, Court, Visaranai, Barfi, Indian, Peepili Live among others have been submitted for nominations. The 2021 Academy Awards will be held on April 25 instead of the usual second Sunday of February.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	78.37	South	
Euro	92.44	African Rand	5.6
UAE Dirham	22.14	Hong Kong Dollar	10.97
Thai Baht	2.8	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	102.64	New Zealand Dollar	54.13
Australian Dollar	57.06	Saudi Riyal	21.67
Canadian Dollar	59.7	Swedish Krona	9.98
Swiss Franc	84.3	Singapore Dollar	57.81

DELHI THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

SIN associates with football teams

SIN announces its association with two out of the eleven teams in the ongoing edition of India's largest football league namely ATK Mohun Bagan FC and Hyderabad FC. The partnerships mark the brand's maiden association with the teams ahead of Season 2020-2021 and represent its deep connect with Young India. SIN is a brand that oozes youthful energy and zeal and is all about celebrating synergy which is synonymous with sports in today's world and aims to further propagate this ideal through its esteemed collaboration with the two teams. The brand has etched its name in the sports world, by signing on Hardik Pandya, a leading figure in the world of cricket and a remarkable sportsman as its brand ambassador.

Intas launches Immunity booster

Intas announces the launch of Thymotas a novel, patented research formulation of Thymoquinone that fortifies immunity and ensures higher success in fighting infection. Thymotas has been tested clinically as a significant add-on to the standard Covid-19 treatment. Thymotas fortifies immunity and fights infections through multimodal actions such as Anti-viral, Anti-bacterial, Anti-inflammatory, Immuno-modulatory and Antioxidant. Thymotas' anti-viral effects have been demonstrated via an in-vitro test against SARS-CoV2 and has tremendous potential as a potent add-on to the standard treatment in Covid-19. Alok Chaturvedi, Senior Vice-President & Head-Medical Affairs said: "In the current pandemic, Thymotas 12.5 mg is very successful in building immunity and combating infections effectively."

NIIT hosts 12th annual lecture

NIIT University (NU) hosted the 12th Annual Lecture delivered by Naresh Trehan, Padma Bhushan awardee, Founder & Chairman of Medanta Medicity. Trehan spoke on 'Building Your Future in Covid Times' at the annual event held online on 23rd November 2020. Trehan talked about how the global health crisis has led to a paradigm shift in the way we live, work, and learn. He also spoke about the role that technology is playing currently in building students' future and how institutions like NU are grooming the 'future leaders' who would script success stories in a world that is becoming increasingly digital. Rajendra S Pawar, Founder, NIIT University said, "For Future-proofing your career in today's time, it is imperative for every individual to have a foundation which is digital. The world is changing faster than it was before this pandemic hit us. Therefore, no matter what your job is, you need to be not just well versed in new age technology platforms, digital methods, and tools, but also ways in which to stay safe."

JBM signs MoU with Centre

JBM Renewables has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India, for the development of compressed Biogas (CBG) projects. The MoU was signed in the presence of Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Principal Secretary, MoPNG, Tarun Kapoor and other key officials. The Minister said that the country is likely to see investments worth Rs 2 trillion to set up 5,000 compressed biogas (CBG) units across the country. As part of the MoU, JBM Renewables will endeavor to establish and operate 500 CBG production projects pan India with a clear horizon. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included CBG in the priority sector lending framework.

Few takers for PLI scheme

Not many MSMEs able to get benefit of the scheme

KUMUD DAS

THERE are only a few MSMEs availed themselves of the PLI scheme so far in the country. "Though there are nearly seven crore MSMEs in the country, still very few of them have been able to get benefit of the scheme," says Chandrakant Salunkhe, president, SME Chambers of India.

He said that the scheme was good, but there was no awareness among the MSMEs about the scheme. It was on April 1, when Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), as a part of the National Policy on Electronics. Tech giants like Samsung, Apple and Flex have also applied for the incentive-based scheme which provides incentives between four per cent and six per cent to the electronic companies, provided that they manufacture mobile phones and other electronic and nano-electronic components - transistors, diodes, thyristors, resistors, capacitors, micro-electro mechanical systems in India.

In order to reduce India's dependence on China, the government in March had announced a scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units. The base year for these schemes is 2019-20.

India's import dependence on China in the strategic sector of advanced pharmaceutical intermediates is 68 per cent. This needs to be driven down and this is where PLI comes into play.



India's import dependence on China in the strategic sector of advanced pharmaceutical intermediates is 68%. This needs to be driven down and this is where PLI comes into play

Key sectors that are going to benefit initially were Mobile (investments to the tune of Rs 15,000 cr are envisaged - most recent being Pegatron, an Apple vendor, signing up for a manufacturing facility in India by agreeing to invest Rs 1,100 cr), and Pharma & Medical device manufacturing. The idea has been two-fold strategy: push the Atma Nirbhar agenda and drive employment generation in the manufacturing sector.

With the recent pronouncements by the Federal Government, the PLI scheme is also expected to benefit the Indian Automotive Industry. It is hoped that this sector will become more competitive and will be able to compete in the global markets and be part of the supply chain of large

global auto companies. The SME and MSME sector is going to be a direct beneficiary of this push as being significant Tier-1 / Tier-2 suppliers to the auto, devices and pharma sectors. However, one has to be mindful of the fact that the devil lies in the detail.

According to Ratish Pandey, Business Coach, Ethique Advisory, "Case in point is the typical bureaucratic approach to prevent abuse of subsidy or running into too much of red tape and hence the cost of managing the program becomes way too high."

One has also to be mindful of the changing equations globally with respect to Global Trade and the likely change in USA's outlook. With the change in leadership imminent in



the US and the initial pronouncements by the President-Elect Biden clearly show that the US wants to be back in the global trade, many countries (including India) which have been moving towards protectionist policies, may need to take a step back, he added.

A total of 22 companies have filed their application under the PLI Scheme. The international mobile phone manufacturing companies that have applied under Mobile Phone (Invoice Value Rs 15,000 and above) Segment are Samsung, Foxconn Hon Hai, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron. Out of these, 3 companies namely Foxconn Hon Hai, Wistron and Pegatron are contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones. Apple (37 per cent) and Samsung (22 per cent) together account for nearly 60 per cent of global sales revenue of mobile phones and this scheme is expected to increase their manufacturing base manifold in the country.


Under domestic companies segment, Indian firms Lava, Dixon, Micromax, etc., applied under the scheme.

Sensex may sustain above 44K

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

SENSEX snapped two-day winning streak before touching 45K on profit booking. It opened on a positive note after making intraday high of 44,825 started downward journey almost losing 1,000 points from intraday top and closed at 43,828 mark. The correction was mainly due to Asian cues and also profit booking before expiry day.

Sensex lost mainly on selling in banking & financial sector also auto, pharma and metal edged lower. However, Sensex may open flat to positive on Thursday depending on Wednesday's Global market closing. Sensex will face first resistance near 44K mark and next 44270-44320 levels & next 44470-44520 levels and next 44700-740 levels, if Sensex fails to sustain above 44K mark intraday. Then it will probably witness some correction with immediate support near 43,750 levels & next level to watch for support should be in range 43570-43620, below which may extend some further correction near 43300-43350 levels. In case Sensex sustains below 43,300

Recommended stocks	
<p>► GMR INFRA above 26.25 with a TGT of 27.20 and SL of 25.35. It has a support of 8 DMA</p>	
<p>► Adani Ports above 401.60 with a TGT of 408 and SL of 395.50. It has support of 21 and 55 MA in short time period</p>	<p>► SRT TRANS-FIN above 1076 with a TGT of 1100 and SL of 10554. It is trading in an upward moving channel</p>
<p>► HDFCAMC above 2545 with a TGT of 2615 and SL of 2480. It is trading in an upward moving channel</p>	

levels may see further downtrend near 43K psychological level.

The market failed to show resilience to stay above the key support Sensex level of 44250. While it is subject to further price action evolution, CapitalVia Research has suggested the technical factors are aligned to support a lackluster market movement going forward. We expect any corrective wave down

should find support around 43,100-43,200.

As of now, the traders are advised to refrain from building a fresh buying position until we witness a correction till 43100 level. The reason is that volatility was observed in expansion in today's trading session which indicates profit booking and distribution of stocks at a higher market level.

Apollo to give 1 mn Covid vaccines a day

NEW DELHI

APOLLO Hospitals are gearing up to give one million vaccines a day once it is available across India through its hospitals, clinics, health centres, pharmacies and Apollo 24|7. "Covid-19 vaccine should be ready within the next 60-120 days", Apollo 24|7 is doing a survey asking customers whether they will take the vaccine and also making them register.

Apollo Hospitals is gearing up to give one million vaccines a day once it is available across India through its hospitals, clinics, health centres, pharmacies and Apollo 24|7.

"Join the list and urge your loved ones, especially ones with pre-existing health conditions to do the same. You will be the first one to know about the vaccines while Apollo gets ready for the #BattlegroundVaccine", Apollo 24|7 said in its vaccine tracker.

HDFC to buy 19.9% stake in Renaissance

NEW DELHI

MORTGAGE lender HDFC Ltd on Wednesday said it will acquire nearly 20 per cent stake in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC (asset reconstruction company) Private Ltd for Rs 49.8 lakh.

HDFC Ltd on Wednesday entered into agreements for investment in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC Private Limited, the company said in a regulatory filing. The investment would result in holding of 4,98,750 equity shares of Rs 10 each representing 19.95 per cent of Renaissance In-

vestment Solutions ARC's share capital for a total consideration of Rs 49.87,500, the filing said.

Renaissance Investment will undertake the business of asset reconstruction subject to receipt of approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it said. Renaissance Investment was incorporated as a private limited com-

pany under the Companies Act, 2013 and certificate of incorporation was issued by the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai on October 28, 2020, it said. No governmental or regulatory approvals are required for the said investment, it said,

adding, approval of the RBI is required for Renaissance Investment to commence the business of asset reconstruction. (PTI)



China urges India to restore normal trade relations

NEW DELHI

UPSET by India's latest ban on 43 Chinese mobile applications, China on Wednesday urged the government to restore the trade relations for mutual benefit.

"China and India are the opportunities of development to each other rather than threats. Both sides should bring bilateral economic and trade relations back to the right path for mutual benefit and win-win results on the basis of dialogue and negotiation," said an official statement issued by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi.

The Embassy was responding to a media query related the Indian government's decision to block the usage of 43 mobile applications with Chinese background including AliExpress, DingTalk, etc.

The Chinese Communist Party regime "firmly opposes the Indian side's repeated use of na-



tional security as an excuse to prohibit some mobile applications with Chinese background," the statement said.

The embassy further claimed that the Chinese government has "always required overseas Chinese companies to abide by international rules, operate in compliance with laws and regulations and conform to public order and good morals."

Spokesperson of the Embassy Ji Rong said that China hoped India "provides a fair, impartial and non-discriminatory business environment for all market players from various countries including China, and rectify the discriminatory practices violating WTO rules." The statement comes at a time when India and China remain locked in a stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in

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Ladakh since June. India has taken several diplomatic measures in retaliation to the Chinese aggression, including banning of Chinese applications over data security issues.

Meanwhile, the eighth round of talks of the India-China senior military commanders were held in Chushul on November 6 to ensure complete disengagement and full restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector. Both countries have agreed to continue their dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels. (IANS)

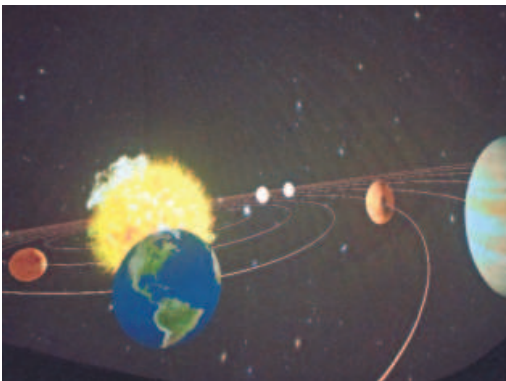
Birla Planetarium in Hyd reopens, wows visitors with space show

Its new astronomical show, Biography of the Universe, will help the viewers gain the good knowledge about the universe

MEGHNA NATH
HYDERABAD

THE BM Birla Planetarium has opened its doors for the science enthusiasts on Wednesday after a span of eight months due to Covid pandemic. Its new astronomical show, Biography of the Universe, will help the viewers gain the good knowledge about the universe.

“The planetarium has opened the doors to public with a bang, as you can view the milky way galaxy and also other major constellations appear in the sky. Biography of the Universe is a 40-minute show where it will take you to an embarking journey of the space through time and life on earth. Starting with the Big Bang, this show deals with the birth of the universe, the formation of stars and galaxies, solar system, earth and the first life on the earth,” said



Hari Babu, technical officer, BM Birla Planetarium.

All the Covid safety measures that include wearing a mask, hand sanitisation and thermal screening at the entrance has been followed.

Handful visitors came on the first day. Earlier the pandemic, the center had footfalls of 150 to 200 on week days and 300 on weekends. As the hall can

accommodate 135 persons for each show, only 50 per cent are allowed. The show is projected in three languages English, Hindi and Telugu, added Hari Babu.

“Almost after eight months we are visiting the planetarium. I had a very informative experience from this show and with the help of the DG technology, it looked liked as we

were surrounded by planets and zodiac constellations,” said J Riya, a BSc second year student of St Ann’s Junior and Degree College.

“I had very wonderful experience. The show threw light on the universe and its various components including the solar system, milky way galaxy and others,” said Ramya Rao, resident of Domalguda.

BJP Mayor will restore stormwater drains: Kishan

Housing to poor top priority

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said here on Wednesday that, if voted to power in GHMC, the party will ensure completion of stormwater drain system by next rainy season on war-footing and to resolve urban flooding problem. At a joint media conference with State BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar and BJP National OBC president Dr K Laxman, he said, unlike TRS which only provides a boat to every house “we will give top priority to 100 per cent restoration of stormwater drain system”.

Criticising TRS and Minister KTR for peddling falsehood, Reddy said the transfer of submerging mandals under the Polavaram project to AP was the decision of the Congress government. He recalled that the issue was included in TRS manifesto of 2014 and that it had even criticised the Congress for handing over the mandals to AP during electioneering.

The minister remarked that TRS chief K Chandrasekhara Rao along with his entire family had gone to get photographed with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

Special measures taken for improving sanitation: Commissioner Kranti

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

“WE are taking all measures for improving sanitation in the city for which about Rs 1 crore is being spent in setting up smart dustbins,” said Commissioner Valluru Kranti. The Commissioner inspected development works at various locations in the city as part of Smart City Project here on Wednesday. Along with RV representatives, she also inspected underground dustbins. Smart underground dustbins were being set up at Ramnagar milk dairy, SRR college water tank, Civil Hospital and other places in the city, she informed.

NTPC Regional Executive Director-South reviews Telangana project progress

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAMAGUNDAM

CV Anand, Regional Executive Director (RED) - Southern Region, NTPC and C Anitha Anand, President Dakshin Deepanjali Mahila Samithi, SRHQ, visited NTPC-Ramagundam on Wednesday.

During his visit, Anand interacted with senior officials and reviewed the

performance of NTPC-Ramagundam besides progress of Telangana Project and Floating Solar PV Project, at an open-air interaction meeting at Jyothi Bhavan lawns. Anand asked Team Ramagundam/Telangana to gear-up for commissioning of Telangana Project Phase-I and Floating Solar PV Project. He also asked all to continue their fight

against Covid-19 and adherence to the guidelines of operating procedures.

Later, along with senior officials, he planted trees in the Guest House premises and in Miyawaki Forest area. Anand appreciated the good work done in the area of plantation and continuous support to Telangana Ku Haritha Haram initiative of the State government.

Revanth campaigns in Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS working president Revanth Reddy is extensively campaigning in GHMC wards in Malkajgiri parliament constituency represented by him. He held roadshows in Vinayak Nagar, Neredmet, Venkatpuram, Alwal and Suraram divisions on Wednesday. He appealed to voters to elect Congress candidates fielded from these divisions. Revanth promised big development in Malkajgiri, if voters ensure win of 25 to 30 corporators from Congress in the coming election.

Revanth was critical of TRS for seeking votes now after neglecting the people during Corona pandemic and the recent floods. “The

Would love to keep wickets in next 3 World Cups: Rahul

SYDNEY

INDIA'S white-ball vice-captain KL Rahul on Wednesday said he would be happy to keep wickets in the next three global ICC events if given an opportunity even though the team management has not yet spoken to him about it.

Rahul has now pipped specialist wicketkeepers Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson as the

no.1 glovesman in the limited overs format. Three ICC events -- two back-to-back T20 World Cups followed by the marquee ODI World Cup -- are scheduled in the next three years. The 28-year-old's

keeping does provide the team the option of having an extra batsman or bowler.

"It helps the team combination a little more and it's some-

thing I would love to do...if the opportunity presents itself and I can keep in three World Cups, I would love to do it for my country," Rahul said in response to a query from PTI ahead of the limited-overs series against Australia starting November 27. Has the team management spoken to him about keeping in ICC events?

"Nothing has been told to me and we are not thinking that far as a team. Obviously

World Cups are important and that is a long-term vision for every team and country," he said.

"I think for me, we are just taking one game at a time. So if I put up consistent performances with bat and gloves, it gives us an option of playing an extra bowler or an extra batter," said the stylish Karnataka batsman. In the ODIs, Rahul has been batting at no.5 and has opened in the T20 Internationals, and he admitted that his position in the line-up will depend on formats.

"What the team wants from me and what combination sits better," said Rahul. "Obviously, the last ODI series (against New Zealand) that we played, I batted at no.5, it's a role that I have enjoyed and (I am) happy

to play whatever role the team gives me."

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's keeping was in a different league and the way he guided spinners went a long way in India's white-ball success. Would he be able to chide a Kuldeep Yadav or Yuzvendra Chahal like Dhoni could, if he takes upon a similar role? "Look obviously, nobody can fill MS Dhoni's place. He has shown us the way and how wicket-keeper-batman role is performed.

"With Kuldeep, Yuzi and Jaddu, we have a decent friendship and obviously I will go and give them a feedback as to what is a better length if they are doing something wrong and anybody in wicket-keeper's role will have that re-

sponsibility," he said. Rahul loved the role of an ODI keeper against New Zealand and hopes to continue with the good work.

"I did one series in New Zealand and quite enjoyed it and hopefully I can be better at reading the game and give bowlers and captains some good feedback for the bowlers and the captain."

Captaining and keeping wickets apart from opening the batting for KXIP has given him an idea of what he can expect in terms of pressure and workload when he dons the India jersey as the vice-captain. "I did get a little bit of a feel with the IPL. I had to play a similar role there. It was challenging, new, got used to the role and started enjoying it.

ISHANT, ROHIT'S ABSENCE NO CONCERN TO US: LANGER

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA head coach Justin Langer has said that the likely absence of Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma from the first two Tests of the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy will have no bearing on the hosts' psyche and the frequent limited-overs match-ups between the two sides in recent times will eventually help them in facing the Indian challenge.

"Not our business, we have got our challenges. We will come together as a group for the first time on the morning of the game. It is up to India what they do and who they choose as we have zero control over things. One thing I have learnt through Covid-19 is that if you get caught up with things you can't control, you literally go crazy. They can pick whoever they want but we have our own challenges so who they pick (as replacements), we'll go ahead and face them," said Langer while responding to a question from IANS on whether the absence of Ishant and Rohit from the first two Tests will affect the Australians.

Both Rohit and Ishant are undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy and there have been reports that the duo might miss the first half of the Test series



as they will recover late and will have to undergo hard quarantine upon arrival in Australia which will make it impossible for them

to play the first two matches to be played at the Adelaide Oval (Dec17-21) and Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26-30).

OZ COACH PROMISES NO ABUSES

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA coach Justin Langer has promised his side won't let up on intensity when the much-anticipated all-format series against India starts from Friday. He, however, has assured that there will be no room for abuses although there will be plenty of banter with a dash of humour. Langer was answering a question from IANS on Wednesday morning about whether the Australian sides in recent times have lost the edge at home by not indulging in sledging and on-field chatter as compared to the sides during his playing days. Steve Smith, had on Tuesday, said that playing in franchise leagues like IPL, has made it impossible to indulge in sledging nowadays.

Australia to stick to Burns as opener

SYDNEY

DESPITE calls from various quarters and former players like Mark Taylor to draft in young Will Pucovski for the upcoming Test series against India as an opener ahead of experienced Joe Burns, Australia head coach Justin Langer on Wednesday hinted that the senior Queensland batsman remains first-choice to take on the new ball.

Langer though did say that if Pucovski plays, it could be somewhere in the middle-order. Traditionally many Australian openers have started in the middle before graduating to the top of the line-up.

"For Will, the opportunity is where it comes like for any other players. My view for the last 30 years has been that if you can bat in the top three in Shield cricket (Australia's top domestic competition), you can bat anywhere in the order.

MELBOURNE OPEN MOST LIKELY TO BE DELAYED

MELBOURNE

THE Sports Minister of Victoria State said the 2021 Australian Open in Melbourne will "most likely" be delayed by a week or two from its scheduled start of Jan. 18.

Martin Pakula also said negotiations between various levels of governments and tennis officials were close to a conclusion and that the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of the year was expected to go ahead. "There's a number of potential dates on the table. I've seen reports that suggest that it's likely to be delayed by a week or two. I think that's still most likely," Pakula said Wednesday. "But it's not the only option. As you know, the French Open was delayed by many months and Wimbledon didn't occur at all.

"I still think it's much more likely that it will be a shorter

rather than longer delay. I don't want to unduly repeat myself but these are very complex negotiations." Australian Open tournament director and Tennis Australia chief executive Craig Tiley last weekend said the final dates should be confirmed within two weeks. The Australian Open is usually held in the last two weeks of January, which coincides with summer school holidays in Australia. Victoria was hard-hit by a second wave of COVID-19, forcing the city of Melbourne into a lengthy lockdown, a night curfew and travel and other restrictions in the state. But it no longer has any active cases and its last deaths from the virus in the state were on Oct. 28.



Kiwi Greg Barclay is new ICC chief

DUBAI

THE concept of 'Big Three' doesn't exist for new ICC chairman Greg Barclay, who firmly believes that both bilateral as well as ICC events can peacefully co-exist helping the game's ecosystem.

The 'Big Three' was a concept where India, Australia and England were supposed to earn the lion's share of global body's revenue. In the run up to the election, New Zealand's Barclay said a perception was created that he gives importance to bilateral cricket over "everything else" but that is far from the truth.

"There has been a lot of misrepresentation in the media around that (that I am in favour of bilateral cricket over world events. But the fact is, of course I am an advocate of bilateral cricket, it is the lifeblood of cricket in all countries..." Barclay said in a video posted on the ICC website. "...Countries playing each other on a regular basis, sustained competitive relevant competition is what drives fan engagement. It is what drives the development pathways, it is a vital part of



'No such thing as big three; both bilateral and ICC events important'

cricket.' But that doesn't mean that the world events are not as important, said the administrator from New Zealand who has also has BCCI's backing.

"The ICC runs world class events. If you look at what happened with the women's T20 all the way through the final, the ODI World Cup last year, they were amazing events. They are pinnacle events no doubt about that. I would need to say they (bilateral and global events) need to work in conjunction with each other, one can't sit in isolation to the other. I am very conscious of the delicate ecosystem that crickets sits on."

Juve, Barça, Chelsea, Sevilla win

LONDON

JUVENTUS, Barcelona, Chelsea and Sevilla all reached the knockout stage of the Champions League with two matches to spare.

Alvaro Morata scored in injury time to send Juventus through with a 2-1 win at home over Hungarian team Ferencváros, ensuring the Italian champions finished at least second in Group G.

Barcelona tops the group and booked its spot in the last 16 for the 17th straight season with a comfortable 4-0 victory over Dynamo Kyiv despite the absence of Lionel Messi, Frenkie de Jong and a number of others.

Both Chelsea and Sevilla left it late to advance from Group E. Olivier Giroud came off the bench to score an injury-time header as Chelsea won 2-1 at Rennes, and Munir El Haddadi scored in the final minute of stoppage time as Sevilla defeated Russian newcomer Krasnodar 2-1 away.

Kerala Blasters eye first win of season

BAMBOLIM

KERALA Blasters will look to notch up their maiden win of the season when they take on NorthEast United FC in the Indian Super League match here on Thursday.

Kerala Blasters went down 0-1 to ATK Mohun Bagan in their opening match. They currently occupy the ninth spot, while North East side, that shocked Mumbai City FC in their opener and impressed many by their defensive resilience, are placed fourth on the points table. Kerala coach Kibu Vicuna said he is well aware of the challenge his side will have to overcome to earn the three points.

"They played a very good match against



Mumbai City and they are a very good team. For sure, they are going to be a strong team and a very tough challenge for us," Vicuna said on the eve of the match. On the other hand, Nus will back his defenders to continue their good run against a Kerala side that did not manage a single shot on target in their loss to ATK Mohun Bagan.

"Kerala Blasters have one of the best squads in ISL. They are a tough team to play against. They are good in the build-up, organisation, and set-pieces. They can create chances in so many ways. It is going to be a hard match," Nus said. Kerala and NEUFC had two of the worst defense tallies in the league last year, only managing three clean sheets each.

While NEUFC seems to have worked on bolstering their backline, the same old woes are haunting Kerala. In their opener against ATKMB, the goal that cost them the game came from a defensive mistake. However, coach Vicuna insisted that things will improve with time and that his Kerala side is essentially a work in progress.

Imperative for me to be on top of my game: Rashmita

BENGALURU

DEFENDER Rashmita Minz, who has been able to make just 13 appearances for the Indian women's hockey team so far after making her debut in 2016, believes in order to be a constant feature of the side, she needs to be on top of the game and keep improving.

In the four years since making her debut as an 18-year-old against Australia when the team played three matches in Melbourne under then chief coach Neil Hawgood, Rashmita has only been able to play two more tournaments for the country. However, the defender is determined to start afresh in this next phase of her career.

"I was really young when I came into the senior team in 2016, and since then it has always been challenging for me. But I have made sure that I have kept my work ethic and have given my best in all the national camps. It has been difficult because when you don't get picked, doubt creeps in," said Rashmita.



She, however, said her conversation with chief coach Sjoerd Marijne about her role in the team really helped her improve as she now knows what she needs to do more frequently.

"I do understand that having a good defensive unit can help the team in a lot of ways, especially in creating more attacking opportunities, which can subsequently lead to more scoring opportunities. Therefore, for me as a defender, it is imperative to be on top of my game and keep learning now," said the defender, who hails from Odisha's Rourkela.

MUMBAI

IT has been an eventful return for Sania Mirza after embracing motherhood and giving birth to baby boy Izhaan, by winning the very first doubles title in January 2020 after nearly a two-year break from the sport.

The doubles title at the WTA Hobart International 2020 with her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok also cemented the fact that she has put in the hard yards to be back at 100% and begin her second innings right from the point where she left it. The winner of six Grand Slam titles and Padma Bhushan recipient, recently watched "Being Serena" on Discovery Plus and couldn't resist herself from relating to Serena after watching the documentary - an eloquent tale of the very best in women's tennis overcoming all hurdles to make a comeback to

supremacy on the court while trying to strike a balance with her role as a mother.

Sania, who has had a similar journey over the past two years and has seen the US-based women's tennis legend from the close quarters, went on to pen an open letter to share her own emotions of motherhood and what it takes to defy all odds and make a comeback to the sport they both love.

She also dedicated the letter to all 'Mothers' who are faced with similar dilemmas in their everyday life. In the open letter - "An Ode to All Mothers", Sania said: "Pregnancy and having a baby made me a better person" "Pregnancy is something that I had experienced for the first time in my life. I thought about it and I think we all have a certain picture about it but once you experience it, you really understand what it means. It absolutely changes

you as a human being."

Later came the part to overcome the physical obstacles and get back to her earlier self to make a comeback to the court. Mirza said, "getting back to shape and form after pregnancy can be a challenge and I can relate to Serena and every other woman on that. I think it's normal for everyone because you don't know how your body is going to react post-pregnancy and during pregnancy.

"Lastly, the Indian tennis star while depicting her transformation journey and the sheer joy of being on the court said, "Having put-on around 23kgs during my pregnancy, I wasn't sure if I was ever going to get back to being fit and playing tennis again. However, I lost around 26 kilos with a lot of workout regimes and very strict diets and came back to tennis because that's what I

know, love and do. Finally, when I won at Hobart after coming back it was pretty amazing. I was honestly very proud of myself to have been able to put myself to compete at the highest level again and I think that's where I was mentally."

