

WINDOWS

Oxford University to resume vaccine trial



London (AP): Oxford University says trials of a coronavirus vaccine that it is developing with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca will resume, days after being paused due to a reported side-effect in a patient in the UK. In a statement, the university said in large trials such as this "it is expected that some participants will become unwell and every case must be carefully evaluated to ensure careful assessment of safety." It said that globally some 18,000 people have received the vaccine as part of the trial. It would not disclose information about the patient's illness for reasons of participant confidentiality but insisted that it is "committed to the safety of our participants and the highest standards of conduct in our studies and will continue to monitor safety closely." Pauses in drug trials are commonplace.



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India, China talks deadlocked

Top commanders to hold 6th round of talks in next few days

New Delhi (IANS): To prevent the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh from further escalating, the armies of India and China held an interaction on Saturday where they discussed withdrawing forces from the points where there are in eye-ball-to-eye-ball situations. Brigade commanders of both sides met at Chushul and held an interaction from 11 am to 3 pm but the talks remained "inconclusive".

Both the countries' military delegates are continuously in talks since September 7, the day Chinese People's Liberation Army made a provocative move to occupy Indian territory at the LAC that was thwarted by the Indian Army. Both countries have now decided to hold their sixth round of top-level military talks within the next few days. The corps commanders -14 Corps commander Lt-General Harinder Singh and South Xinjiang Military District chief Major General Liu Lin have not met since August 2.

A senior government officer stated there is a complete breakdown of trust between both the

militaries. China has mobilised thousands of soldiers, tanks and howitzers within shooting distance of each other in the Pangong Tso-Chushul area. Indian soldiers then swiftly seized tactical heights on the ridge line stretching from Thakung on the southern bank of Pangong Tso to Gurung Hill, Spanggur Gap, Magar Hill, Mukhpari, Rezang La and Requin La (Rechin mountain pass), and other height features near Chushul to pre-empt the Chinese army activities there.

The Chinese have since made multiple attempts to dislodge Indian troops from mountain heights. India has also found that the Chinese side has started troop, artillery and armour build-up in three sectors of the LAC -- western (Ladakh), middle (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) and eastern (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh).

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff at the LAC in eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has been no breakthrough and the deadlock continues.



Five Indian youths handed over by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) to Indian Army, at Kibithu in Anjaw district on Saturday

China hands over 5 'missing' Arunachal youth to India

Itanagar (IANS): Five youngsters from Arunachal Pradesh, who went missing on September 2 but were later found to be in Chinese territory, were handed over to India by the People's Liberation Army on Saturday amid the ongoing stand-off between the two sides at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh.

The five returned to India nearly 10 days after they were allegedly abducted, defence sources said. The youth were handed over to Indian authorities in Damai near

Kibithu in Anjaw district of eastern Arunachal Pradesh.

"The Indian Army took custody of the five individuals at Kibithu on Saturday after completing all the formalities. They will now be quarantined for 14 days as per Covid-19 protocol and thereafter handed over to their families," Defence PRO Lt Col Harsh Wardhan Pande said in a statement.

The Kibithu (Arunachal)-Damai (China) area is a place where Indian and Chinese armies hold border meet-

ings. Local media had reported that Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker, and Ngaru Diri -- all belonging to the Tagin community -- had gone to the forest for hunting when they were reportedly kidnapped near Nacho in Upper Subansiri district.

The PLA had on Tuesday conveyed to the Indian Army that the five youth, who went missing on the Sino-Indian border in Upper Subansiri district, were found by them in their territory.

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No carelessness till medicine is developed: PM on Covid

Works worth ₹23K-cr done under Garib Kalyan Yojana: PM

Bhopal (Agencies): Cautioning people against lowering their guard till an effective anti-coronavirus medicine is developed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday came up with a slogan in Hindi to drive home his point.

He said, 'Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilai nahi' (No carelessness till a medicine is found). Modi gave this slogan while addressing the virtual housewarming ceremony of 1.75 lakh houses built in rural parts of Madhya Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). "Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilai nahi. Do gaj ki doori, mask hai jaroori (Face mask and maintaining distance of two yards is necessary)," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the government had completed works worth Rs 23,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and that the number of days to build a house under the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) had gone down



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks while attending the 'Griha Praveshama' programme being held in Madhya Pradesh for the inauguration of 1.75 lakh houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G) scheme, through video conferencing, in New Delhi on Saturday

from 125 days to between 45 and 60 days. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said: "With the handing over of 1.75 lakh new houses, about 2.25 crore persons have got their own houses in the last six years."

Modi said that it reinforces the belief of crore of Indians that the government schemes made with right intentions are also realised and reach the beneficiaries.

KRMB finds fault with TS govt over data sharing

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has questioned the Telangana State Government as to why it had failed to keep up its word in furnishing the information sought by it.

In a letter to Engineer in Chief, Irrigation department, KRMB Member-Secretary Harikesh Meena pointed out that the TS government had agreed to furnish the details of inflow data of river Krishna in the Telangana

region, flood management and give monthly break up of designated allocations and utilisation of water in Telangana as per the latest agreements and interim arrangements from various projects by May 30.

The letter said, the matter was also discussed during the 12th KRMB meeting held on June 4. The board Chairman questioned the government for the delay in furnishing the data. The board officials made it clear that it would not

hold next meeting on river water disputes unless the TS government submits the data which it had sought.

The KRMB asked the TS government to furnish at least the available hydrological data such as inflows and outflows and storage capacities of the projects immediately and to expedite the submission of other requisite data so that next meeting of the committee can be convened early and finalise the pending issues, KRMB said in its letter.

JEE topper among girls in TS aims for IIT-Bombay

Hyderabad (PTI): Her interest in mathematics since school days and a burning desire to get into IIT-Bombay and do computer engineering prompted Chukku Tanuja to excel in the JEE-Mains exam and be the topper among girls in Telangana. Hailing from Vizianagaram district in Andhra

Pradesh, she is pursuing her studies at a private junior college. "I know my Rank in the JEE-Advanced exam should be less than 60 if I want to get a seat in IIT Bombay. I am trying for that. I want to become a computer engineer," she told PTI.

Her father, who is a school teacher there, was

a constant source of encouragement, she said, adding she did not expect 100 percentile. Tanuja was among the eight students from Telangana who secured 100 percentile in the Joint Entrance Examination Mains conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Kangana flight chaos: IndiGo told to act against unruly fliers

New Delhi (IANS): The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed IndiGo to take action against the passengers responsible for unruly behaviour and protocol violations on a flight with Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut onboard. The incident took place on a Chandigarh-Mumbai flight on September 9. A DGCA official said:

"There are multiple issues. The prominent ones include photography on-board in violation of Aircraft Rules 13, violation of Covid protocols and certain actions falling within the purview of unruly behaviour onboard."

"We have asked the airline to take appropriate action against those responsible," the official said.

The airline said that it has given its statement to the aviation regulator on the matter pertaining to flight 6E 264 from Chandigarh to Mumbai on September 9.

"We would like to reiterate that our cabin crew, as well as the captain, followed all the requisite protocols, including announcements to restrict photography, follow so-

cial distancing and maintain overall safety. IndiGo also followed the requisite protocol of documenting this matter in its post-flight report," the airline said in a statement.

IndiGo added: "We are in receipt of certain directions from the DGCA in relation to flight 6E 264. We will follow the prescribed guidelines."

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HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana Social and Tribal Welfare students scripted another success with a whopping 432 social and 274 students of social and tribal welfare residential educational institutions in IIT- JEE Mains 2020.

In a statement on Saturday, Dr RS Praveen Kumar, Secretary, TSWREI and TTWREI Societies said that the students have scored high percentiles on par with the corporate colleges.

Sravan Kumar of social welfare IIT Gowlidoddi scored 99.51 percentiles and a tribal boy Ka-

troth Anil from Tribal Welfare IIT Study Centre, Rajendra Nagar, scored 94.05 percentile.

Similarly, Naini Mamatha, a girl belonging to a particularly vulnerable primitive group (PVTG) from tribal welfare Hayath Nagar Junior college scored 89.11 percentile.

He said, "What makes their feat so remarkable is that they are the first-generation sons and the daughters of daily wage earners, agricultural labourers, vegetable vendors, roadside tea sellers, security guards, auto drivers."

These students proved that



A view of the successful students posing for a group photograph

extreme poverty and rural background is not an impediment to making their mark in the country's toughest entrance exam if right opportunities and guidance is provided, Dr Praveen Kumar

said. He congratulated the students on their success and for their outstanding performance. Further, he praised the efforts made by the teachers and said that the entire credit goes to

committed teachers for their hard work in helping needy students from remote villages and tribal hamlets to secure admission in top-notch IITs and NITs in large numbers every year.

BJP demands thorough probe into drugs nexus of Tollywood

Hindi movie actress Rhea Chakraborty allegedly named Tollywood heroine Rakul Preet Singh as well as other actors during the investigation by the Narcotics Control Bureau

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao on Saturday demanded a thorough investigation into the drug nexus of Tollywood.

In a statement, the BJP leader said he made this demand as one Tollywood actress' name cropped up during the investigation into Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case by the Narcotics Control Bureau investigation (NCB). Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty allegedly named Tollywood heroine Rakul Preet Singh as well as other actors during the investigation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

He said, earlier, a senior IPS officer, Akun Sabharwal had done a thorough investigation into the drug mafia influence not only just Tollywood, but also on schools and colleges in Hyderabad. Many big names had come to light during the investigations. But none of them has so far been brought to justice, he added.

Ironically, the Tollywood ac-

tress in question Rakul Preet Singh has been 'Telangana brand ambassador and has been preaching against drug abuse, "through State government-sponsored publicity programmes. Such is the state of affairs and duplicity of these self-proclaimed youth icons and role models", the BJP leader said. He said that many such drug users, addicts and peddlers of Tollywood are still very popular and actually have become bad role models for youngsters. They are inadvertently driving many young students and professionals into drug addiction, which eventually destroy their lives.

BJP demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to initiate a serious investigation into the drug menace in Hyderabad, which is destroying many young lives in the state of Telangana.

A letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy requesting for serious investigation through NCB into drug trafficking in Telangana State, he added.

50 per cent of staff permitted to attend schools, colleges



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Teaching and non-teaching staff of the schools and colleges are allowed to work from home till September 21.

The modified rules will come into effect from September 14.

The new set of guidelines issued in line with the Cen-

tre's unlock 4, said, the on-line and distance learning continues to be allowed.

A maximum of 50 per cent of teaching and non-teaching staff are permitted to attend the schools and colleges (at a time) for online teaching tele-counselling and related work.

However, this is applicable in case of the institutions lo-

cated in the areas outside the containment zones.

The modified rules will come into effect from September 21.

The new rules apply to all the institutions regulated under the Board of Intermediate Education, Commissioners and Directorates of collegiate, technical school education departments.

TSCHE allows students to write exams from their college

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Students appearing for their undergraduate and postgraduate final examinations are allowed to write examinations in the colleges where they are studying. The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) on Saturday said the permission to allow students to take examinations in the colleges they are studying has been taken keeping in view of the current Covid situation. And in the interests of the safety of the students.

However, it is only one-time permission given for the students to take examinations in the colleges of their study, the TSCHE added.

HSPA seeks govt clarification on academic year

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad School Parents Association (HSPA) sought a clarification from the State Education Department (SED) on the date of commencement of the academic year 2020-21 of the schools and affiliated to the CBSE, ICSE, IGCSE Boards.

The HSPA asked in a letter to Special Chief Secretary Education Chitra Ramachandran, on Saturday, seeking the date of permission given to the said schools to commence the academic year 2020-21.

Citing a circular of the State School Education Department dated August 24, the HSPA said that the circular announced the commencement of the online classes to the students in Telangana from September 1.

The HSPA asked if the said rules apply to the schools registered with Telangana govern-

- HSPA asked the State Education Department to clarify on date of commencement of the academic year
- The Education department announced commencement of the academic year 2020-21 from September 12, 2020
- The private schools have already started online classes without government permission
- When the when the academic years starts from September 1, how come schools charge fee since March, asks HSPA, vice president Seema Agarwal

ment, but, are following CBSE, IGCSE, ICSE boards curriculum? The HSPA, vice president Seema Agarwal said that the parents are confused due to lack of information on the commencement of the academic year.

Further, the HSPA alleged that the private schools are violating the GO No.46 and collecting the fees without giving breakup, even when asked by parents and representatives' from respective schools.

Instead, schools have resorted to manipulation of fee structures

and pressurising the parents' to pay fees for the whole year, apportioned into various installments.

It also questioned the collection of fees for March to August, this year, when the academic year commenced from September 1.

She questioned how can any schools collect fees without the government's declaration of academic years, starting online classes from March, April and May 2020 (during the lockdown period), it asked.

TS reports 2,278 new cases & 10 deaths



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana reported 2,278 fresh cases pushing the overall Covid count to 1,54,880. With the death of 10 patients, the deceased count rose to 950. Of the 62,234 corona tests done in the last 24 hours, 28,005 tests were done on primary contacts while 8,713 tests were done on secondary contacts.

According to the health department, only 31 per cent of positive patients were having virus symptoms. GHMC reported 331 among fresh cases with Ranga Reddy 184, Medchal-Malkajgiri 150, Nalgonda 126, Karimnagar 121 cases.

The recovered cases figure stands at 1,21,900 while the number of active cases at 32,005.

FEW FOOTFALLS AFTER RE-OPENING CENTRES

Yoga trainers switch to online training

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

Hyderabad: Yoga centres were allowed to reopen from August first week onwards across the country. Accordingly, Yoga centres, studios, and clubs in Hyderabad opened their shutters with high hopes of getting back to normal. Like other sectors that were impacted during the lockdown and also after unlock, yoga centres too were hit.

Due to fear of coming outside of the house to yoga studios where people assemble in groups, health-conscious citizens from Hyderabad did not turn up like before when classes were held continuously in the morning and evening. The footfall was not as desired much to the disap-



pointment of yoga instructors and trainers.

However, challenges bring new opportunities and yoga trainers had to go to the tech-way, which is online mode of training. Yoga classes are now being held on Zoom and other online platforms with people joining morning and evening

batches and learning yoga from the comforts of their homes without having to step outside.

Noted yoga trainer Aruna Kumari, whose clientele includes women politicians and celebrities, stated that offline classes have reduced, but on-line classes are the order of the day.

"Earlier there were no on-line yoga training classes. However, now most of the training is conducted online, which is convenient for yoga learners also," she said, adding that she is now conducting on-line yoga classes for people in the US, UK, Canada, Australia with some countries to join.

Aruna said that Telugu associations in those countries are co-ordinating in organizing

these batches.

With corona effects to last for a considerable period of nearly two years, she predicted that the online classes trend would continue and stay longer.

Meanwhile, Jyoti Jashnani, Dietician, Yoga Ratna, and Author, said that yoga trainers are in demand in the corona pandemic. "Yoga trainers help is being sought by in quick recovery of covid positive patients in home isolation. Also, people who have recovered from virus infection are also seeking yoga trainers to help to come back to improve their immunity and come back to a normal healthy condition.

Consultations and classes are being held online and through WhatsApp," Jyothi added.

NIMS to conduct corona tests for out-patients

Hyderabad: NIMS, Panjagutta will be conducting corona tests for out-patients coming to the hospital with virus symptoms. Rapid antigen testing will be done near the information center from 8 am to 2 pm for out-patients having symptoms suggestive of Covid. Patients can be referred to Covid testing center from their respective OPDs. All patients have been advised admission should undergo testing near the information center.

TS legislators to undergo 2nd round for corona test

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: All the Legislators, Officials and Police deployed at Assembly and Legislative premises will undergo corona tests for second time before the resumption of the ongoing session of the two houses on Monday.

Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Council Chairman G Sukhendar Reddy instructed the assigned medical teams to conduct corona tests to all MLAs and MLCs and also the officials attending the duties during the session by Sunday evening. The legislators were already instructed to show the medical test results to the authorities before entering the premises during the working days. All the members and officials already underwent first round of medical tests before the beginning of the session from September 7. Required safety measures were already taken in the assembly and council to check the spread of deadly virus. Thermal screening, regular sanitisation and supply of masks to everyone are part of the safety steps taken by the government.

Police forces deployed in the Assembly premises were also under scanner. Special Medical Teams were already conducting medical check up to prevent any outbreak of corona cases among the cops.

Ayushman Bharat not effective as Aarogyasri says Srinivas Yadav

Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav says that Telangana has a better scheme than the Centre's and, hence, government will not implement the Central scheme

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the Aayushman Bharat was not as effective as Aarogyasri scheme of the Telangana government.

The minister was replying to a question on implementing Aayushman Bharat in Telangana. He also said that Telangana had a better scheme than the Centre's hence, government will not implement the Central scheme. He said that government was doing well in corona pandemic and the Central teams visiting the State have appreciated the government. He ridiculed the comments of Union Minister G Kishan Reddy that government was hiding PPE kits given by the Centre.



sembly Speaker P Srinivas Reddy have asked all the members to undergo Covid test before coming to Assembly on September 14 in the special counters arranged in the Assembly premises.

In wake of the spread of the disease and keeping in view the safety of all the members, the MLAs and MLCs should undergo tests at counters of the health department. The speaker has also asked the Telangana Legislature secretary V Narasimhacharyulu to make the staff, marshalls, media personnel and police personnel in bandobust to take tests. The staff can undergo tests at Assembly and Council premises on Sunday.

Four crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar lifted

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nagarjuna Sagar: Officials of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) have been releasing water downstream by lifting four crest gates of the project to a height of 10 feet as the reservoir has been receiving a considerable flood flow from upper stream on Saturday evening.

According to official sources, Sagar reservoir is getting inflow of 1,41,816 cusecs from upper stream and 1,00,316 cusecs of water is being released as the outflow from the project which includes 7,800 cusecs to Right canal, 2,800 to SLBC, 600 to low-level canal,



25,000 cusecs to power house and remaining through the four gates of the dam. The present water level in Sagar reservoir is 311.14 tmc at 589.70 feet against full tank level 312 tmc at 590 feet.

Wildlife population declined by 68 per cent since 1970: WWF

New Delhi (IANS): Global populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish have suffered an average two-thirds' decline in less than half a century.

This has contributed to environmental degradation, leading to the emergence of zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19, according to WWF's Living Planet Report, 2020.

The Living Planet Index (LPI) shows that factors believed to increase the planet's vulnerability to pandemics -- including land-use change and the use and trade of wildlife -- were also some of the drivers behind the 68 per cent average decline in global vertebrate species population between 1970 and 2016.

"The Living Planet Report, 2020 underlines how humanity's increasing

destruction of nature is having catastrophic impact not only on wildlife populations but also on human health and all aspects of our lives," said Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International.

"We can't ignore the evidence -- the serious decline in wildlife species populations are an indicator that nature is unravelling and that our planet is flashing red-warning signs of system failure. From the fish in our oceans and rivers to bees which play a crucial role in our agricultural production, the decline of wildlife affects nutrition, food security and livelihoods of billions of people," he added.

In the midst of a global pandemic, it is now more important than ever to take unprecedented and coordinated



global action to halt and start to reverse the loss of biodiversity and wildlife populations across the globe by the end of the decade and protect our future health and livelihoods.

The Living Planet Report, 2020 presents a comprehensive overview of the state of our natural world through the

LPI which tracks trends in global wildlife abundance with contributions from more than 125 experts from around the world.

It shows that the main cause of the dramatic decline in species populations on land observed in the LPI is habitat loss and degradation, includ-

ing deforestation driven by how we as a humanity produce food. The LPI, which tracked almost 21,000 populations of more than 4,000 vertebrate species between 1970 and 2016, also shows that wildlife populations found in freshwater habitats have suffered a decline of 84 per cent -- the steepest average population decline in any biome equivalent to 4 per cent per year since 1970.

One example is the spawning population of the Chinese sturgeon in China's Yangtze river which declined by 97 per cent between 1982 and 2015 due to the damming of the waterway.

Based on a paper, bending the curve of terrestrial biodiversity needs an integrated strategy co-authored by WWF and more than 40 NGOs and academic institutions and published in

'Nature' on Saturday, the LPR, 2020 also includes pioneering modelling which shows that without further efforts to counteract habitat loss and degradation, global biodiversity will continue to decline.

The modelling makes clear that stabilizing and reversing the loss of nature caused by humans' destruction of natural habitats will only be possible if bolder, more ambitious conservation efforts are embraced and transformational changes made to the way we produce and consume food. Changes needed include making food production and trade more efficient and ecologically sustainable, reducing waste and favouring healthier and more environment-friendly diets.

The research shows that implementing these measures together

rather than in isolation will allow the world to rapidly alleviate pressures on wildlife habitats. The modelling also indicates that if the world carries on with "business as usual", rates of biodiversity loss seen since 1970 will continue over the coming years.

"The focus of Living Planet Report, 2020 is to reiterate a scientific case for the urgent action we need to protect and restore nature and biodiversity," said Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF India.

"This year has seen catastrophic events across the country and the world -- forest fires, cyclones, locust plagues and the Covid-19 pandemic. These events have shaken the world's environmental conscience and forced us to rethink and reset our relationship with nature," he added.

'Diggy, Khurshid, Anwar- the comeback men in Cong rejig

New Delhi: (PTI) With the Congress effecting a major rejig ahead of internal polls for a new chief, political pundits feel the entire exercise is as much about stamping Rahul Gandhi's authority as it is about a careful balancing act done through the return of stalwarts like Digvijaya Singh, Salman Khurshid and Tariq Anwar along with cutting down to the size of several dissenting voices.

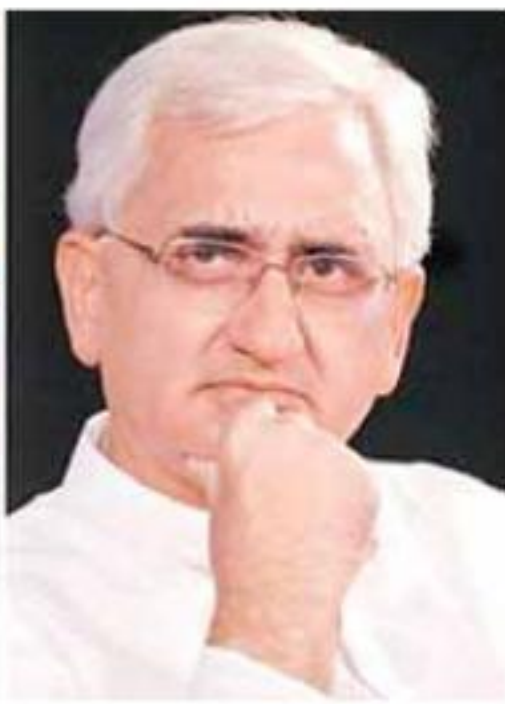
Political observers also feel these organisational changes may not quell the simmering dissent completely and it remains to be seen whether the country's grand-old party eventually heads for a split, as those having sought large-scale reforms have been craftily divided -- a few have been co-opted, some have been given time to make up their minds and the rest have been left out in the cold. Several leaders and observers are of the opinion that some old-timers might have been brought back in the organisational fold to counter the "Group of 23", who had written to interim president Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent organisational overhaul, including an active and full-time



leadership. But, not many of them were not willing to be quoted for their views, citing the "sensitivity" involved in talking about "the family" matters.

The massive organisational shake-up is also being seen as having a dominant Rahul Gandhi imprint with Randeep Singh Surjewala and Jitendra Singh, both considered to be close to the former party chief, becoming new general secretaries along with the veteran Anwar.

Even the reconstituted "Central Election Authority" has a



Rahul Gandhi stamp on it with his loyalist Madhusudan Mistry heading it and Krishna Byre Gowda and S Jothimani becoming its members.

Though several leaders such as Pawan Kumar Bansal and Rajeev Shukla, who are former Union

ministers but did not have any significant assignments in the party till recently, have also made a comeback of sorts as AICC in-charges, the party watchers feel the big comeback has been of Singh, Anwar and Khurshid. Singh, once considered a close

confidante of Rahul Gandhi, was dropped by him from the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, in 2018 ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Singh, who has been brought back into the CWC as a permanent invitee, seems to have won back the confidence of Gandhis in the aftermath of Jyotiraditya Scindia's exit from the party. He had also openly backed Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi amid rumblings over the leadership issue. Another interesting inclusion is that of Khurshid as a permanent invitee in the CWC along with that of Jairam Ramesh, who was recently appointed convenor of a five-member committee formed to discuss and formulate the party's stand on key ordinances promulgated by the government.

Khurshid, known to be among leaders considered close to the Gandhi family, did not have any significant party assignment after his Lok Sabha poll defeat from Farrukhabad. However, his steadfast support for the Gandhi family's leadership seems to have won him back in his favour.

Asserting that there was no urgency to have an elected Congress president, Khurshid had recently told PTI that he "can't see the heavens falling" for the need of a party chief as Sonia Gandhi was still at the helm and should be the one to decide on the leadership issue.

Khurshid had also said he would not have signed the letter even if he was approached by the group of 23 letter writers. He was also named in the party's manifesto committee for Uttar Pradesh earlier this week.

Another dramatic comeback to the top echelons of AICC is of Anwar, who has been made general secretary in-charge of Kerala and Lakshadweep. In 1999, Anwar had raised the banner of revolt against Sonia Gandhi along with party stalwarts Sharad Pawar and PA Sangma on the issue of her foreign origin. Nineteen years later, Anwar returned to the Congress in 2018 after being with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) all along.

After about two years of his return, Anwar has returned to AICC headquarters where he wielded enormous power in the 1990s.

Rift widens between Nitish and Paswans

New Delhi: Amid the growing rift with NDA partner JD(U) ahead of the Bihar assembly election, Lok Janshakti Party patron Ram Vilas Paswan has said he will stand firmly with "whatever decision" his son and LJP chief Chirag Paswan takes on the party's ties.

In a series of tweets, the Union minister also revealed that he was hospitalised with an illness and was getting treatment for it. He, however, did not mention the nature of his illness.

"In the time of the coronavirus crisis, I served the country as the food minister and made every effort to ensure that food items reach on time everywhere. During this time, my health started deteriorating but to ensure that there was no laxity in work due to this, I did not go to a hospital," Mr Paswan said.

The minister said that it was at his son Chirag's behest that he went to a hospital and started treatment.

"I am happy that my son Chirag is with me at this time and is

looking after me in every possible way. Besides taking care of me, he is also fulfilling his responsibilities towards the party," Mr Paswan said.

In a politically significant statement, he also indicated that he would stand by his son Chirag's decision on alliance and seat sharing for the Bihar assembly polls.

"I am confident that with his youthful thinking, Chirag will take the party and Bihar to new



heights. I firmly stand by all the decisions of Chirag. I hope that I will soon be well and among my loved ones," Ram Vilas Paswan said. His statement comes after the LJP authorised Chirag Paswan to take a call on whether the party will fight against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-headed Janata Dal (United) in the assembly polls and decided to prepare a list of candidates for 143 constituencies.

Fauci disagrees with Trump's remark

Washington (IANS): Anthony Fauci, the US' top infectious disease expert, said he disagreed with President Donald Trump's latest remark on the Covid-19 pandemic, where the latter claimed that the country has rounded "the final turn" on the health crisis, it was reported.

The White House coronavirus task force advisor's remarks on Friday were in response to Trump's claims made the previous day that the US was "rounding the final turn. And we're going to have



vaccines very soon, maybe much sooner than you think", The Hill news website reported. Speaking on MSNBC, Fauci said he disagreed with the President's assessment, noting that if Americans aren't careful, the pandemic could

worsen. "I have to disagree with that, because if you look at the statistics, they are disturbing. We're plateauing at around 40,000 cases a day. And the deaths are around a thousand," Fauci told the news network.

"When you have a baseline of infections that are 40,000 a day and you have threats of increased test positivity in certain regions. What we don't want to see is going into the fall season, you don't want to start off already with a baseline that's so high," he added.

Paudwal's son dies due to kidney ailment

Mumbai (PTI): Veteran playback singer Anuradha Paudwal's son Aditya Paudwal died on Saturday after suffering a kidney failure at a hospital here. He was 35. Aditya, who breathed his last early on Saturday morning, had been suffering from kidney ailments for "quite some time", an official from Cine Singers Association said.

"I got a call from Aditya Paudwal's family this morning and they said he died due to kidney failure at a hospital.

"We later informed all our members. He had been unwell since quite some time, he had kidney problems," Himanshu Bhatt, General secretary, of Cine Singer's Association told PTI.

Aditya was a music arranger and producer. He had arranged and produced a song for Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer "Thackeray", which released in 2019. The news of Aditya's death was first shared by music composer Shankar Mahadevan, who took to Instagram to pay his tributes.

"Devastated hearing this ! Our dearest Aditya Paudwal is no more. Just can't believe this. What an amazing musician and a lovely

human being.

"I just sang a song which was programmed by him so beautifully two days back. Just can't come to terms with this. Love you brother... miss you," Mahadevan wrote.

Other prominent personalities from the field of music also condoled Aditya's death on social media. Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar tweeted, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the demise of Anuradha Paudwal ji's son Aditya at such a young age. May his soul rest in peace."

Veteran singer Pankaj Udhas said he is shocked by the sudden passing away of Aditya.

"Shocked to learn about sudden passing of dear Aditya Paudwal. We will never forget the image of his energetic and bright face. May God grant him eternal rest and the family the strength to bear his untimely passing.



70-yr-old woman raped in UP

Ballia: A 70-year-old woman was raped and beaten up by a man in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia on Saturday following which the accused was arrested, police said.

The 25-year-old man forcibly entered the woman's house around 4 am and raped her, SHO of Haldi police station Satyendra Rai said.

The accused, who used to work in a house near the elderly woman's residence, also hurled abuses at the woman and thrashed her, he said.

A case was registered against him on the basis of a police complaint lodged by the nephew of the 70-year-old woman and the accused was arrested, the SHO said.

The woman was sent for a medical examination, he added. Earlier this week, an 86-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a man in a secluded area in south west Delhi's Chhawla area, police said on Tuesday.

The accused Sonu (37), a plumber, is a resident of Rewla Khanpur. He has been arrested in connection with the incident, they said.

Shiv Sainiks who assaulted ex-navy officer get bail

Mumbai (IANS): At least four Shiv Sainiks who were arrested for assaulting a retired Indian Navy officer for allegedly forwarding a cartoon on Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, were released on bail here on Saturday, officials said.

The victim, Madan Sharma, 65, is a resident of Lokhandwala Complex in Kandivali east, who had reportedly forwarded a cartoon showing Thackeray pros-

trating before pictures of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar, on a WhatsApp group of his society members. The incident happened on Friday afternoon when a group of around 8-10 persons, all allegedly Shiv Sainiks, came and assaulted Sharma in his society compound.

The Shiv Sainiks, including a Shakha Pramukh Kamlesh

Kadam, found the cartoon objectionable, stormed inside Sharma's complex and attacked him, said an official of Samata Nagar Police Station here.

Earlier, though nobody from the society had reacted to the cartoon, someone had forwarded it to Kadam, his medico daughter Dr. Sheela Sharma said.

A CCTV clip of the society posted by local Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Atul Bhatkalkar

shows the attackers chasing Sharma, dragging him by the collar, pulling his shirt and attacking with no intervention from the society security personnel. With red and swollen eyes, though Sharma apparently escaped serious injuries, he managed to reach home soon afterwards and then went to the police station to lodge a complaint, even as several BJP leaders slammed the government for the incident.

Jaguar scandal resurfaces after 40 years in diplomat's memoirs

London (IANS): What was rumoured more than 40 years ago has resurfaced. An eye-witness account in an about-to-be published autobiography of Ambassador Alan Nazareth "A Ringside Seat to History" gives credence to the long-held suspicion that Kanti Desai, son of Morarji Desai, who was Indian prime minister between 1977 and 1979, was inappropriately involved in the \$2.2 billion deal for Jaguar fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

Nazareth, who was deputy high commissioner and acting high commissioner for India in Britain, recounts: "Prime Minister Morarji Desai's return visit (to London) was made in July 1978. Among those who accompanied him was his son Kanti. I witnessed with amazement the respectful attention senior British Defence Ministry officials paid him, and the separate huddles they had now and again with Secretary to PM."

He then records: "In mid-October 1978, when I was AHC (acting high commissioner) again, I received a telephone call from PMO instructing me to convey to 'Prime Minister (James) Callaghan personally' that GOI



had decided to purchase the Jaguar fighter aircraft despite stiff competition from its rivals."

Nazareth immediately spoke to Callaghan to communicate the message. "He (Callaghan) said he was delighted to receive it and requested me to convey his grateful thanks to PM Desai for conveying this to him 'personally and promptly'."

\$2.2 billion was an extraordinary sum for the period. The contract was for 200 combat planes. Nazareth's description of Kanti Desai's 'pow-wows' with British defence officials appears to circumstantially confirm his wheeler-dealer reputation when his father was prime minister. He held no official position in the Indian government; yet he was the cynosure of British defence officials' eyes.

Otherwise, Nazareth narrates

in his book a memorable initiation into the service. In 1959, when he and his batch-mates were making a customary call on Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru at the commencement of their careers, the foreign secretary, Subimal Dutt, suddenly entered the room to whisper something into his ears. Nehru revealed the Dalai Lama, escaping from Tibet (which had earlier been annexed by China) had safely crossed the border into India.

The PM then turned to Dutt to say: "These young officers will be dealing with the consequences of today!" Indeed, notwithstanding the nobility of Nehru's decision to grant sanctuary to the Tibetan leader, Indian diplomats are still feeling the heat, given the current stand-off with Chinese troops in Ladakh.

Nazareth's narration fascinatingly includes a description of Indira Gandhi as Information and Broadcasting Minister slipping into a swimsuit to wade into the sea during a visit to Myanmar; he James Bond-like chasing one of the original Indian fraudsters and absconders, shipping magnate Dharma Teja, in Costa

Rica; and as consul-general in New York refusing to authenticate documents to falsely implicate V.P. Singh, later to become prime minister, and his son for opening a bank account in St Kitts.

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PAST AND PRESENT

T K Nandanan, Kochi

The NEP 2020 has made a case

I know of students of certain B-schools, who, having studied earlier in the regional language, find themselves floundering at the postgraduate level unable to read or converse fluently in the business language of the day - English! One such student had earnestly re-

The world has become a global village due to technology and networking, and businesses - tech driven or otherwise - thrive on the very foundation of good communication through an international popular language. Let not the authorities miss the wood for the trees and deprive our students of holding their own ground on international platforms for simply the lack of global communication skills.

Inclusive land reforms towards conclusive title

VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO

Telangana Land Rights, Pattadar Passbook Bill and the Telangana VROs Abolition Bill were passed unanimously in the State Legislative Assembly. Informing the House that the Revenue reforms now being brought are the first step, the Chief Minister reiterated that many more reforms would follow suit. He asserted that a comprehensive land survey in the State would be taken-up as a measure to put an end to all land related problems. The reforms initiated now would ultimately culminate into giving conclusive titles to land owned farmers.

Conclusive titles are state guaranteed titles, where the state guarantees the title for its correctness and provides for compensation in case of any disputes. A conclusive title is an unquestionable and convincing proof of ownership of property. Current provisions in central Registration Act (1908) do not confer clear property titles on the owners while providing for registration of property deeds and documents. The title remains merely presumptive.

The kind of rural administration that was in vogue in Telangana as against the present initiatives of CM KCR is quite interesting. Villages which were Republics were integral part of our country's history and Britishers never inter-

fered in the age-old traditions or customs. In the earlier times agriculture lands had no boundaries at least till the 19th century. Moghul Emperors Akbar and Sher Shah Suri undertook land measurements for the first time. Till mid-19th century Village Karanam was in-charge of Land records while the Munasab or the Police Patel was in-charge of Law and Order. During Kakatiya's rule Ganapati Deva Raju specially trained 6,000 (Niyog) Brahmins and made them the village Karanams.

In 1853, the then Nizam appointed Salar Jung I as the Prime Minister in which position, he worked for 30 years under three Nizams. Through his Zilla Bandhi policy Salar Jung regularised the governing system of Jagirdars, Makthedars and Payagas. For the first time the Nizam government had undertaken survey of the lands and prepared the records. These records were in vogue till the Salar Jung III in 1936 undertook yet another survey.

Such a survey was not done earlier. Except the village officer no one knew how much land was available and under whose control it was. There were no proper records of the land nor its boundaries. The term Pattadar lands came into vogue for the first time after Salar Jung's survey. Nizam government created and appointed an officer called Girdavar for the villages. He was in addition



to Patwari, Mali Patel and Police Patel who were not paid any salary from the government. This administrative set up continued till 1956 when the Hyderabad state merged with Andhra state.

After the Salar Jung survey Anavari register was maintained which were also called as Setwari. For the farmers land there used to be a map called Naksha. These maps are drawn with black ink on a silk cloth. These are still available now. Some land was earmarked in every village as part of the Gram Kantam. For animal fodder one fourth of the land earmarked as Bancharayi. Lands, which were not fit for cultivation, were called Po-

ramboku. In the farmers land, rocks, uncultivable piece was called Phoot Kharab for which tax was not levied for that portion. There were records for the lands owned by farmers but not for any government land. The Nizam had allocated lands in the periphery of Hyderabad on his name and they were called Sarf-e-Kas. This was recorded as Zilla ataraf balda.

After the survey and settlement, the responsibility of maintaining records was given to the Patwari. Patwari used to prepare the tax collection list of names and handed over the same to Mali Patel. Patel and Patwari ruled the roost till the Panchayat Raj system

came into existence. Patwari in his barish takhta used to compile information about availability of water, floods and famine. Based on the Patwari report, during the Zamabandi cess used to be waived for the land if there was famine or floods. Whether to supply water for the second crop or not was to be decided at Taha Bandi. Crops dependent on rains used to be called Abee, Tabee while the wet crops were referred to as Kharif and Rabi.

Lands in the villages were called Tari and Khushki. At the advent of cultivation, the Patwari used to survey the lands, whether seeds are sown in Tari-Khushki lands

and record the same. Checking of lands used to be called Charu Mahi and Hasth Mahi. The inquiry and check conducted by the Patwari every four months was called Charu Mahi. The checks done later were called Hasth Mahi. Girdavar used to be head of the checks. It was the responsibility of the Patwari to maintain records of the details of landowners, extent of land and the Cess collected. The records prepared by Patwari were key records for the government.

In a way, it can be said that as part of Salar Jung reforms, land was surveyed and recorded in such way that it could be computerized and digitalized today. In fact, survey of lands began under Sher Shah Suri though incompletely. However, due to various reasons, a need has arisen now for a fresh survey and settlement of lands and rectification of land records. The Survey Numbers given in those days have become irrelevant now. As CM announced in the Assembly, total survey of Telangana state would be undertaken. Along with the survey, coordinates for each and every survey number with longitude and latitudes will be fixed.

After the survey of Salar Jung then, the details of land cultivated by each farmer was maintained in a permanent record called Setwari. Every land holding was given a number which even today is referred as the Survey Number. Based on this, each year the Pat-

wari used to prepare two records, Pahani (primary right document) and Chouphasla. Pahani has details like extent of the land, owner of the land, category of the land and what crop was cultivated etc. The inspection details of the crops both by Girdavar and Patwari used were entered in the Pahani.

Eventually, the Watandari system was abolished. A new administrative set up took over thanks to NTR. There were several lacunae that were crept in the records. A wide gulf between the Village Revenue Officers and farmers in the villages surfaced. Nobody could say how much land was available and who owns what land? Consequent to rectification and updating of records the current Pattadar Pass Book was introduced with lesser number of relevant columns.

The proposed land survey with the help of Information Technology, as and when it is taken-up, would be better than that of Salar Jung leading ultimately to conclusive title to landowner as the ultimate goal. The rural administration, which was wrecked and destroyed with abolition of Watandari system and appointment of VROs would now be strengthened. The survey and settlement program announced by KCR would certainly and undoubtedly herald a new beginning in inclusive land reforms and conclusive title to land.

To retire or not: It's not ours to reason why, but to do and die

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

Retirement finally hits one in all occupations. The world is getting younger and so should the elders if they want to survive the progressive world that is flashing fast before them. Modern technology is progressing at a pace that requires the young and the old to keep themselves abreast. The young ones are striving hard to make a life whereas the old are becoming fitter and mentally sharper to keep alive. Their bodies may be aging but their minds are exploding with the wealth of knowledge that they can access with just one click of the finger.

In the corporate world, the retirement age restrictions play a significant part to end one's career, even though one is fit mentally and physically to continue. The reason for this is to primarily make way for youngsters as well as for the elderly to enjoy the remainder of their lives in relaxing and pursuing their passion.

Unfortunately, the world today has brought a complete change in the way one looks at life. Passion-plus-interest is the new modus operandi and people are making their living by following their dreams.

In sports, age is a very important factor. In India, a sportsman after the age of 30 is usually on a declining graph. A 30-plus cricketer is referred to as a veteran. As he grows older, he gradually loses his buddies and becomes a loner, who was once respected but somehow is not on the same wavelength as the rest.

A present day sportsperson is a different breed entirely.



The money that is being generated, and earned by one, is a very important factor in continuing one's sport. Players now have access to fitness machines and regimes and with monitored diet control, they are at least 10 years younger than their age, so to speak. In cricket, it is no different. The skill to play the game is what a cricketer develops when he is young. And the agility, strength, and stamina that differentiates the old and the new has now become redundant.

The decision to retire, especially for an Indian cricketer, is a very difficult one. One puts in hours and hours of hard work, at times in hot and sizzling weather, playing matches at every given opportunity to hone one's skill. The conditions are very tough in one's early days. To make it to the first-class level a cricketer needs to forgo everything to reach there. An outsider only sees the glamour quotient

at the end of it, but the time that a cricketer spends on cricket gives one very little opportunity to educate himself or make another career. The intense competitiveness in Indian cricket is a scorching task at present, and just to sustain and be a part of it requires a phenomenal amount of dedication and sacrifice.

Fortunately, money is there in Indian cricket, but it has taken away the options of pursuing another career when cricket is done. The earlier cricketers were amateurs and as cricket was not a 'profession' as such, the game could not give them a lifetime support. Education, therefore, was an important factor in providing them with a job and so retirement from cricket was a far easier option than what a cricketer is facing today.

Cricket is now a big business and with no other options available, a modern cricketer hopes to engage in as many years play-

ing the sport as possible. Yuvraj Singh has been a very successful Indian cricketer and when he announced retirement a year ago, one felt he deserved to finally rest and relax. A year in oblivion was enough to draw him back to his favorite sport. He has requested the BCCI to grant him permission to play domestic cricket again as he wants to represent his home state Punjab. Yuvraj is a good example of how life can become dull while staying away from the only profession that one has mastered. He may have made plenty of money, invested in businesses, and may have been involved in several ventures outside the game. But all that becomes insignificant when he compares it to what he is most comfortable with -- and that is playing cricket.

Players such as Yuvraj, Dhoni, Raina and so many of the other senior lot of cricketers who have retired, or are on the verge of retirement, need to be encouraged to continue doing service to cricket for their state associations. The BCCI should allow them to play T20 league cricket tournaments around the world, if they so desire, once they have officially retired from representing the country. Why shouldn't such cricketers be permitted to play wherever they want to? The rule that one needs to retire from all formats of the game in India to play in other leagues is unfair. It takes one back to the famous quote by Lord Tennyson: "Ours not to reason why, ours but to do and die".

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

Do we need to watch surreal shows like 'Big Boss'?

DR K NARAYANA

Lenin famously said, "art is not for art's sake, but for the people." Arts and literature that are devoid of social reality will retard people's consciousness and keep them in perpetual ignorance. Art that is devoid of social responsibility is no better than black magic.

Any art form should be designed to evoke social consciousness and awareness of the ills being faced by the society. Ignoring this will only serve to perpetuate injustice and apathy towards the suffering masses. Some of the shows on TV such as Big Boss, Adirindi, Jabardast etc., are degrading the consciousness of youth to total apathy and inaction. In the previous generations, art played a key role in enlightening and encouraging youth to come forward to fight for independence, cultural renaissance and modern Telugu movement.

Art organisations such as IPTA (Praja Natya Mandali in Andhra Pradesh) have done yeomen service in educating and arming youth to fight for social and economic justice. Dramas such as 'Maa Bhumii' roused people to fight against the tyranny of the Nizam in the erstwhile Hyderabad State. Films also played a key role in making people grasp social realities and injustice. As a result of these historic efforts, Telugu culture had scaled new heights and acquired a special place in the cultural rainbow of the country.

But it is a tragedy that today, our films, TV shows and other popular media reflect - not people's issues, but crass humour, cultural insensitivity and dangerous apathy to others. And the 'Big Boss' show tops them all! The producers and presenters of such shows should feel a sense of shame for the damage they are in-



flicting on the minds of our youth.

We are presented a super luxury villa, fit for Indra in his heavenly abode, or one that suits people like Vijay Mallaya. And famous film star, Nagarjuna is the compère for the show. One young man enters the scene and Nagarjuna asks him, "What do you desire to do with these stars?", displaying three glamorous actresses (it is not proper to discuss their identities here).

The youth replies that he wants to date one, kiss another and marry the third. And Maa TV has provided the unique opportunity for viewers to be witness to such crass nonsense. Among a number of young participants in the show, for some mysterious reason, a poor old woman was also invited. All of them will be confined to that building or film set for a hundred days. No contact with their families, no mobiles and nothing else to do.

Suddaala Hanumanthu, Gaddar, Vangapandu and now Venkanna in Telangana have played a key role in bringing about revolutionary consciousness among the peasants and rural poor. The crass synthetic art manufactured by capitalist media houses are simply interested in promoting the business interests of the financial sponsors and they pay no heed to social responsibility or cultural values of a na-

tion. And we are sad witness to this cultural bulldozing.

These media moguls are intent up on destroying our great cultural heritage. And in the process, they distort or ignore peoples' art built up with enormous sacrifices by progressive artists and writers. Do any of these synthetic entertainments and false facades reflects the problems and aspirations of the masses? Why don't we realise that people face real problems and art has to provide real solutions. If art serves that useful purpose, there is no need to talk about these surreal synthetic spectacles.

By ignoring our culture, traditions and past, will force us to relive the past. And when we continue to live in the past, our present and future also get distorted. Why do Telugus with such a rich cultural heritage tolerate such crass synthetic cultural façade masquerading as entertainment? Big money changes hands in the process and businesses make indecent wealth. Why do the parents allow their children to be sacrificed at the altar of capitalist greed? Why so much responsibility on the part of the multi-splendoured MAA TV? Are our souls already dead?

(The writer is national secretary, The Communist Party of India. Views expressed are personal)

Of Shelley, Covid and bringing Italy and India closer

VISHNU MAKHJANI

Percy Bysshe Shelley was a poet of the Romantic era who had inspired Mahatma Gandhi. Now, his 'Ode To The West Wind' written two centuries ago, Covid-19, an Italian director and an Indian producer have come together for "Human O.A.K.", a short film that is "absolutely poetic, something delicate, something that speaks about the pandemic but in a gentle way".

The film "could only be thought and realised in the lockdown period. If there had not been the Covid-19 I would never have thought (of it) and shot it. I wanted to do something absolutely poetic, something delicate, something that spoke about the pandemic but in a gentle way. Because in such tragedies like the Covid-19, the affections of people who love each other and their possible loss, are the most important thing of all," the director, Ulisse Lendaro, told IANS in an email interview.

"I wanted to start from a poem that was possibly related to a pandemic. I read 'Ode to the West Wind' by Shelley, all his biography and his connections with India, with Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. So I

immediately felt the strong need to talk about this idea with my friend and producer Jitendra Mishra who gave me a lot of good advice about the mood of the film.

"It was an exchange, a continuous flow of energy and ideas. I started to write because I could 'see' the film. And so naturally we decided to co-produce this film," Lendaro explained.

"Human O.A.K." is the story of a new type of humanity. The story of a child who, in the time of a sunset, becomes a girl, forced to quickly leave behind the life she had before everything changed, the memory of her mother with whom she used to play and their poems that now sound like an omen. In an abstract, melancholic present, drenched in nature, this little girl continues her journey until she reaches a large oak tree.

There, among books hung to mature, she meets another child, a little boy. Maybe they already knew each other. Among visions of a recent past, memories, and nature, life is renewed for all humanity.

How did the title evolve? "Human life is like the life of an oak tree. The west wind in autumn comes every year and



takes out all the leaves of the tree but the tree stands tall to sprout new leaves again in spring next year. Humanity has always emerged stronger after such pandemic each time. This poetic film is a portrayal of change and hope for a new better life," said producer Jitendra Mishra. His most recent production, "The Last Color" directed by Michelin-starred Chef Vikas Khanna, starring Neena Gupta, has already been selected in more than 50 international film festivals and received more than 15 different awards as of now.

The objective, he said, was to create a positive environment amongst the global film industry (between him and Lendaro, between Italy and India) "when everyone was getting negative because of the uncertain pandemic, to bring hope for others by making an international co-production possible even if we are sitting thousands of miles away and fighting against this dreadful situation".

What was it like shooting amid the pandemic with its restrictions at all? Lendaro was with his family in the mountains, on the Dolomites, not far from Vicenza, when Covid-19 erupted. He understood immediately that a long period of confinement was about to begin and so the family decided to retire to their country house, just outside Vicenza.

"We had three in the cast (including former Miss Italia Anna Valle) to shoot with and we did it with a very limited crew because of the social distancing norms of the Covid-19 lockdown. The entire film was shot outdoors and in a remote location outside the city, except for a few montages. That is the reason we didn't face many challenges I believe. "The only challenge was to have done a

great job with a very small crew. The costume designer, for example is the Pluri-award-winning and talented Massimo Cantini Parrini, with whom I have worked at a distance via Skype; he was in Rome and I was in Vicenza. We - me and Jitendra - made a great post-production job of the film," Lendaro said.

What are the plans for releasing the film and for future collaborations?

"We are planning to do the festival round in the next two months. We have been invited and have already finalized a few festivals but can't reveal the names due to the non-disclosure agreement with them. We are planning to release it worldwide on a premium OTT platform by end of this year.

"After this successful benchmark, of course, we are planning to make a feature-length film together that we will announce separately soon," Mishra said.

What's the connection with Mahatma Gandhi? Shelley's ideologies of non-violence and vegetarianism were followed by Mahatma Gandhi, who would often quote the poet's "The Masque of Anarchy", that has been called "perhaps the first modern statement of



the principle of non-violent resistance". "Shelley's eagerness for vegetarianism is connected with India. In 1812 he was converted to vegetarianism by his friend John Frank Newton, who had himself been converted while living in India. Shelley wrote 'Ode to the West Wind' in 1819 near Florence. It was originally published in 1820 by Charles in London as part of the collection 'Prometheus Unbound'. Shelley wanted his message of reform and revolution spread, and the wind becomes the trope for spreading the word of change through the poet-prophet figure," Mishra elaborated.

Indian cos realise hybrid Cloud is their best bet

NISHANT ARORA

Given the macro-economic environment in the ongoing pandemic times, the Indian enterprises have realised that it is multi-cloud and Hybrid Cloud environments that achieve the best balance between cost, revenue, performance and risk management, a top executive from the enterprise Cloud computing firm Nutanix said on Saturday.

As enterprises embark on their transformation journey, the Nutanix India business witnessed 42 per cent (year-on-year) growth in the FY20, with a 34 per cent customer growth in the same time period.

According to Balakrishnan Anantharaman, VP and MD-Sales, India and SAARC, Nutanix, the pandemic has accelerated the realisation that cloud and software-defined infrastructure are the new drivers of business outcomes, such as newer revenue streams, better cost efficiencies and lower risk.

"Businesses will need to integrate and utilise the latest technologies and innovation across the entire enterprise in real time: changing resources, focus, verticals, or even industry at a moment's notice to stay up with, and ahead of competitors and the market," Anantharaman said.

Nutanix last week partnered Microsoft to deliver a Hybrid Cloud solution with seamless application, data and license mobility. Both companies will focus on extending Nutanix Hybrid Cloud infrastructure to Azure.

According to Anantharaman, the Indian firms want to invest in architectures which will help build resilience from both an infrastructure and application perspective.

"The current needs of India's enterprises can be classified into two primary requirements - infrastructure modernisation and application modernisation," he said.

The first kind of enterprise is re-looking at their data centre for greater resiliency post the pandemic.

"They are looking to navigate the shift from legacy systems to modern infrastructure, in a way that is efficient and seamless".



Today, multi-cloud and hybrid Cloud provide the freedom to control and manage data sovereignty combined with the flexibility to leverage extended cloud offerings like desktop as a service, disaster recovery as a service or even expand to the public cloud, when required

The second set of enterprises is looking for application modernisation so their users and customers can run/use their applications anywhere, in a location agnostic manner with just a single/few clicks.

"The need of the hour is a fluid Infrastructure with a feel of infinity in terms of elasticity but with finite costs. For example, banks have had to scale up their applications to help their customers as the number of digital transactions shot up during the pandemic," Anantharaman explained.

In order to successfully reach its customers across the country, Nutanix has also built strong alliances and seen a 51 per cent growth in its partner ecosystem.

Today, multi-cloud and Hybrid Cloud provide the freedom to control and manage data sovereignty combined with the flexibility to leverage extended cloud offerings like desktop as a service, disaster recovery as a service or even expand to the public cloud, when required.

According to the company executive, forward-looking businesses have been, in some sense, already using multiple clouds.

tier-2 markets, and increasing the presence in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. (IANS)

AP tops in ease of doing biz, but needs to do more

Telangana, despite one-notch slip in EoDB ranking to 3rd in 2019 tally, has been attracting a steady flow of investments

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

Andhra Pradesh did it again. For the third time in a row, the residual State retained the top slot in ease of doing business (EoDB) rankings for 2019. Political slugfest over the ownership of the latest rare feat apart, it's no small achievement for a State which is yet to settle its capital city conundrum and which lacks a revenue-churning metropolis.

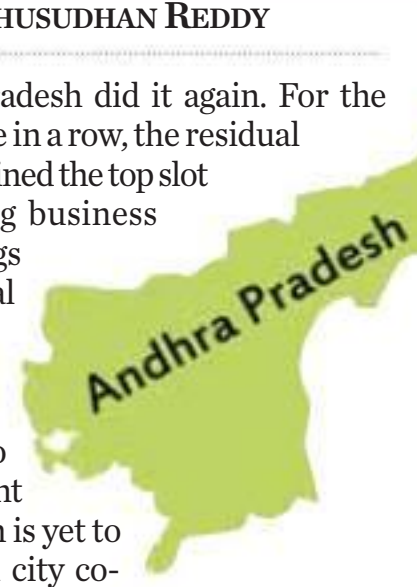
AP shared the top ranking with Telangana in 2016 before emerging as sole leader in 2017-18. Telangana was at second place in that edition. In the inaugural edition of the rankings in 2015, Andhra Pradesh was at 2nd place while Telangana came at distant 13th. AP retained the top ranking in the latest edition even though the assessment was based on a survey among industrialists and industries, while Telangana slipped by one spot to third position.

A close look at the latest rankings reveals that several key States have suffered drastic decline in their rankings. Gujarat, the home State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, slipped to 10th place now from fifth position in the last edition. It topped the rankings in the inaugural 2015 edition. Karnataka, the country's other major growth engine, came at 17th position this time. It stood at a decent eighth place last time. Same is with Haryana as its rank fell from third rank last time to a low 16th now. Odisha's rank dropped to 29th from 14th.

However, some States did extremely well. Most importantly, Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous State, improved its ranking by 10 spots to second place. Delhi also improved its ranking by 11 positions to 12th spot.

But, there is no direct link between the rankings and the investments that States get. Telangana, despite one-position drop in EoDB ranking in the latest tally, has been attracting a steady flow of investments. It

AP's New Industrial Development Policy for 2020-2023 announced recently, may not support the growth of the key MSME sector on expected lines. The drastic change in the land allocation norms from the existing lease-and buy to composite lease-cum-sale will certainly discourage MSME entrepreneurs



BIZY LIFE

has received several decent investments during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis too. The State will continue to do so as it ticks right boxes when it comes to industrial ecosystem and infrastructure. It has a mega metropolis in Hyderabad which is home to one of the country's leading IT hubs. Interestingly, the IT sector in Hyderabad has been logging the highest upswing in the country in recent years. Real estate sector in the city is also on a strong footing even though the situation in this space is getting worse by the day in other major cities thanks to Covid-19 spread. But Andhra Pradesh will have to sweat it out to attract new investments even after securing the numero uno position in the rankings. The State has a long way to go when it comes to industrial infrastructure, connectivity and other ecosystems. Furthermore, it has to bring the capital city conundrum to a logical conclusion as early as possible.

However, the Jagan Mohan Reddy government has taken a laudable step by focusing on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which are always in the forefront when it comes to generating jobs, both skilled and unskilled. But AP's New Industrial Development Policy for 2020-2023 announced recently, may not support the growth of the key MSME sector on expected lines. The drastic change in the land allocation norms

from the existing lease and buy to composite lease-cum-sale will certainly discourage MSME entrepreneurs. Under the new policy, land is given to new industrial units on lease for 33 years with an option to buy it after operating the unit successfully for 10 years. MSME entrepreneurs who generally need small parcels of land prefer to buy the land for new units if they can afford it. They take loans on the land and operate units whenever they go through tough times. That will not be possible if the industries are set up on leased lands. Further, according to the new policy, some incentives will be paid only after three years of operations. These two new norms are likely to discourage MSME entrepreneurs from investing in Andhra Pradesh. The State government should alter these new policy norms and make them more MSME friendly if it wants the key sector to flourish in the State.

But excessive focus on MSMEs will send wrong signals to large investors. So, Andhra Pradesh should give equal importance to large industries as well. It's an undeniable truth that the MSME ecosystem will not flourish in any State without the presence of large industries.

But incentives offered by the previous TDP government to Kia Motors still seems to be haunting the present dispensation.

That's what we can gauge from the recent remarks of Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy. But the presence of Kia's massive automobile plant in Anantapur district in backward Rayalaseema region will certainly benefit the State if the administration there leverages it effectively. The fact of the matter is that Kia Motors has put Andhra Pradesh and its Anantapur district on the global automotive map. Sri City, a flourishing integrated business city in neighbouring Chittoor district, is home to the automobile manufacturing plant of Japan's Isuzu Motors. Kobelco, another Japanese brand which makes construction equipment, also has its plant there. Homegrown Amara Raja Batteries has several plants in Chittoor district. The Andhra Pradesh government can use this decent automotive ecosystem to develop backward Rayalaseema region as a hub for the automotive industry.

Electric vehicles, which are gaining traction these days, are expected to dominate the mobility space in future. Sooner or later, US-based Tesla Motors, a leading electric vehicle maker, will set up its plant in India. AP can use the existing ecosystem to attract such global automotive brands.

But attracting investments is no cakewalk. A dogged perseverance is an essential trait to impress prospective investors. An able team is imperative. A proactive attitude is a must. Above all, governments and their leaders should not hesitate to walk an extra mile to support investors, provide the right infrastructure for new industries and create a comfort zone for new investors. States and countries which embody these qualities will succeed in attracting investments irrespective of the EoDB rankings. That's the reality. There are no free lunches in this world. That's more so in the business world, isn't it? Anyway, Andhra Pradesh needs loads of private investments to put its financial health in order. There is no other way out for the State. AP will be able to attract private investment only if it succeeds in leveraging its existing ecosystem and strengthens it further. It should also be able to leverage the top EoDB ranking. That's the bottom line.

CO-COVID WORLD

A big opportunity awaits India

With 'Made in China' losing steam, Indian government needs to foster an environment that incentivizes manufacturing

VIIVECK VERMA

The narrative around Covid-19 in the Indian media has been macabre. Videos of migrant labourers walking home in hoards, testimonies of working class persons fearing the worst to come, medical professionals pleading for better work conditions - the nation's news media paints the picture of a dystopia. The question then is for how long does this ordeal last? When does normalcy return?



The short answer is never. The pre-Covid world is a thing of the past and a post-Covid world is nowhere in sight. Much like the flu, the coronavirus can't be eliminated, only contained. Much like the flu, the global economy must learn to function in coexistence with Covid... a co-Covid world, if you must.

Somewhere in the discourse around the uncertain future of a co-Covid world, India forgot that in uncertainty lies opportunity. That certainly the coming era is one of much hardship, but in my opinion also of more innovation. This could be India's upsurge opportunity, should we choose to make hay.

In the initial stages of the lockdown, the world saw a sudden global shift online. With an unplanned and almost universal stay on transport, businesses had few options but to figure as swiftly as possible an alternative to the age-old means of economic interactions. Thus, the most obvious solution - a digital economy - was mobilized. Webinars, Zoom, cashless transactions, virtual classrooms, all became the norm for a lack of an adequate competing solution. This got off to a rocky start, of course. After all, the lockdown was sudden and came without warning. However, I believe we are now seeing the acceptance phase of this jarring interruption in the established way of things.

And for all its hardships and effort, we would be remiss to neglect the redeeming factors of this shift. Vehicular traffic and consequent air pollution levels are reduced, physically committed theft has reduced, and measures to make remote education feasible are

underway. No doubt, there have been many challenges to having all society locked away in the home. Incidences of domestic violence are reportedly on the rise and the nation's collective stress levels might soon constitute a health crisis.

Notwithstanding these, the more constructive effects of a lockdown must not be forgotten. For example, the limits of geography no longer apply to business interactions. TiE Delhi i.e. The Indus Entrepreneurs Delhi hosted 3000 participants at their annual summit last year. In organising this year's programme, the members of the TiE Hyderabad core-team realised that with physical constraints lifted, we could operate at a much grander scale. In December 2020, the summit is scheduled to be attended virtually by 20,000 participants from around the world!

Since a co-Covid world is here to stay, the question is now one of opportunity: How can India make the most of this new world? How can Indians capitalise on these changes to propel our economy? The answer lies in innovation. What we require now is for Indian individuals and organisations alike to capitalise on the present shifts. An upsurge in innovation is the only proactive approach to fill the gaps in the new world order. This is our bigger, better Y2K.

One can say that an upside to a global pandemic is that it has proven an equalizer of sorts. Every single individual is affected, thus no group can be ignored. This is not an issue for a subset of the population, which would require campaigns and lobbying. Covid-19 has spared none. The virus is contagious - if the poor have it, the rich soon will. The prince and the pauper are both in danger. It follows that the princes of the world have no choice but to consider the well-being also of the paupers. Perhaps, for the first time in modern history, the welfare of no one can be ignored.

This social awareness, this empathy is the new basis for innovation, going forward. "I need you and you need me to be functional. How can I help make a co-Covid world such that we may all thrive?" - this is the new mantra of Indian innovation that will help us rebuild the supply chains, work processes, and delivery systems that were disrupted by the lockdown. No longer is the world's focus on flying cars and colonising Mars.

The pre-Covid world is a thing of the past and a post-Covid world is nowhere in sight. Much like the flu, the coronavirus can't be eliminated, only contained. Much like the flu, the global economy must learn to function in coexistence with Covid. An upsurge in innovation is the only proactive approach to fill the gaps in the new co-Covid world order



Today, we spend our energies making sure food still reaches our tables.

This innovation can't come from a single sector alone. The public and private players in the economy must all come to the table to figure the best arrangement for the nation. This is India's opportunity to break China's hold as a manufacturing giant. With the reputation of 'Made In China' products dipping, it is up to our government to ensure manufacturers do not take their business to Vietnam, Thailand, or other countries that will also undoubtedly benefit from China's diminishing influence on global economic sphere. Wisdom would lie in the Indian government fostering an environment that incentivizes manufacturing in India. A good start would be to court stakeholders with a clean regulatory environment and to invest in high-quality business infrastructure.

The wonderful thing about the co-Covid agenda is that the big players now need local entities. The superficial divide between large corporations and smaller-scale local players is to a great extent nullified. The big shots of the world have no choice but to engage with any and every underdog that could help sustain their operations. International players are now humbled for indigenous knowledge which will prove key to their sustainability. They are desperate for the liaison of local players, and must thus get off their high horse. Be it developing a Covid vaccine or some other innovation, this is an upsurge moment for the underdog in business. Another interesting trend arising from this new world order is reverse migration. I am privy to dis-

course in the NRI circles that leads me to believe that the brain-drain that India has been facing every year will now be reversed. Intellectuals and capable workers will return home. Moreover, rural-urban migration will also reverse, as we have already witnessed. I know of companies incentivizing their employees to work from home by promising compensation for WiFi, a work desk, and any other equipment the employee may need to set up a home office. TCS too declared that 75 per cent of their employees will now permanently work from home. Youth now entering the workforce needn't choose between staying home with their families or moving to a metro city to work. Moreover, this frees up companies' real estate for other lucrative projects. A win-win!

The social sector too is primed for innovative processes to deliver social security. Education, healthcare, mental health, gender disparity and other causes now face a new host of challenges of access. Again, the State and private social sector must collaborate to improve tech penetration in ruralities and maintain the delivery of life-affirming services to already marginalised groups. The digital classroom is as inevitable as Netflix. And just as in the classroom, it is time for India to take notes, think quick, and deliver solutions to propel the nation head-on into the new co-Covid world. Opportunity lies ahead and someone will surely seize it. Will it be India?

(The writer is Senior Advisor of Telangana State Innovation Cell and Founder, Upsurge Global. Views expressed in this article are his own)

QUIZ NO. 139

HANS BIZ QUIZ

Theme: 'General Motors'

1. On 16 September 1908, General Motors was formed as a holding company for Buick. General Motors was founded by William Billy Durant, who began as a manufacturer of horse-drawn vehicles. Which brand was GM's first acquisition after Buick Motor Company?

- a) Oldsmobile b) Opel
c) Cadillac d) Vauxhall

2. General Motors was the first car company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. In which year General Motors was listed on NYSE?

- a) 1967 b) 1958 c) 1934 d) 1911

3. General Motors introduced the Oldsmobile diesel as the first diesel-powered American passenger car? Which amongst the models were introduced as its diesel version?

- a) Oldsmobile Delta 88
b) Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight
c) Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser
d) All of the above

4. Ironically, Oliver Evans, a prolific inventor and best known as the inventor of the stationary high-pressure steam engine was born on September 13. When did the General Motors Corporation unveil the first diesel-powered American passenger car?

- a) 11 September 1943
b) 12 September 1961
c) 13 September 1977
d) 13 September 1982

5. General Motors had filed for bankruptcy in June 2009, the value of its stock was wiped out, along with \$27 billion in bond value. When did General Motors return to the US stock market after a \$50bn government bailout?

- a) 18 November 2010
b) 25 July 2012
c) 13 September 2013
d) 13 September 2011

6. Bankruptcy fixed much of General Motors fixed cost and debt. General Motors closed 14 of its 47 plants. Which brands were sold off or shuttered to slash its debt from about \$46 billion to about \$8 billion?

- a) Pontiac
b) Hummer, Saab

- c) Saturn
d) All of the above

7. Which models of General Motors helped set the tone for automotive styling and remembered as the automotive design industry's golden age?

- a) BelAir (1949)
b) Buick Roadmaster (1949)
c) Chevrolet Corvette (1949), Cadillac Eldorado (1959)
d) All of the above



8. By 1971, General Motors pioneered the use of engines that could run on unleaded petrol and developed independent front-wheel suspension, unibody construction and the one-piece steel roof. In 1974 GM became the first automobile company to offer a car with?

- a) Airbag
b) Automatic transmission
c) Central locking or power door locks
d) Power Steering

9. General Motors company helped develop the guidance and navigation system for the first Moon landing aboard Apollo 11. In 1932 which brand of General Motors was renamed as Pontiac?

- a) Holden
b) Oakland
c) McLaughlin
d) La Salle

10. General Motor's most widely travelled 1971 model was built for the moon. Along with Boeing, GM co-developed the Lunar Roving Vehicle first used during which mission?

- a) Apollo 11
b) Apollo 15
c) Chandra
d) Apollo 17

The Hans Biz Quiz has been compiled by **Sunil Dhavala**, CEO, The Third Umpire Media. He had held senior management roles at Bertelsmann, NGC, Fox Broadcasting, Star TV and others. He is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

KEY

1A 2D 3D 4C 5A 6D 7D 8A 9B 10B



US OPEN

Thiem to face Zverev in final

New York (IANS): Second-seeded Dominic Thiem overcame a left ankle injury to enter his first US Open final, beating Daniil Medvedev in a pulsating semi-final clash at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. On Friday evening, Thiem displayed his trademark fighting

spirit to beat third-seeded Medvedev 6-2, 7-6(7), 7-6(5) in a match that lasted almost three hours. He will play No. 4 Alexander Zverev of Germany in Sunday's final. Each is looking for his first major win.

"After the first set, it could easily have been two-sets-to-one down," Thiem said after the match as per the official tournament website. "I played my best tennis at the ends of the sets and both tiebreaks were amazing. Tiebreaks are really mentally a tough thing."

"I don't like them at all, to be honest," he added.

Earlier, Zverev made it to his first Grand Slam final, dismissing Pablo CarrenoBusta, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in three and a half hours to advance to the championship round of the tournament.

"Even though I was down two sets to love, I stayed in it," Zverev said of his mental toughness after the match. "I gave myself the best chance I could. I think a lot of players would have gone away. Today I dug deep, dug very deep. At the end of the day, I'm sitting here as the winner of that match, which could have been very different."

Zvonareva, Siegemund win women's doubles crown

New York (IANS): Playing in their first-ever tournament together, unseeded partners Laura Siegemund and Vera Zvonareva clinched the 2020 US Open women's doubles trophy after registering a straight-set win over Nicole Melichar of the US and Xu Yifan of China.

The unseeded tandem defeated the third-seeded opponents 6-4, 6-4 in 79 minutes on Friday afternoon to claim the title at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The victory in the final completed the run for the champions, who had never played together prior to this event. Siegemund and Zvonareva swept to victory in the final by breaking their opponents' serves three times; they also got 73 per cent of their first serve points into play, and won nearly 80 per cent of points when they did that.

"(It's a) special two weeks for me because I've been away from the tour for a long time," Zvonareva said after lifting the trophy as per the official tournament website.



"I haven't played a lot of back-to-back matches, I would say, at the same tournament...I think one of the most important things is that I was enjoying my time on the court with Laura. She made me feel good on the court. She was very supportive. I think that helped us a lot to get through some tough matches."

This is the first-ever major women's doubles title for Siegemund, who won the 2016 mixed doubles title at Flushing Meadows, with Mate Pavic.



Neymar cleared of Covid-19, returns to training

Paris (IANS): Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) forward Neymar has declared that he is "super happy" to return to training which implied that he has recovered from coronavirus and moved out of isolation. The 28-year-old striker was one of seven players in the PSG squad who had tested positive recently. The other infected players include Kylian Mbappe, Mauro Icardi, Angel Di Maria, Leandro Paredes, Keylor Navas and Marquinhos, reports Xinhua news agency. "I went back to training, supper happy #CORONAOUT," the Brazilian posted on his Twitter account on Friday. The absence of these key players had weakened Thomas Tuchel's side significantly as the Ligue 1 defending champions launched their title defence with a shocking 0-1 defeat at newly-promoted Lens on Thursday.

The shorthanded German coach had to field several youngsters like 18-year-old league debutants Kays Ruiz-Atil and Arnaud Kalimuendo and 20-year-old goalkeeper Marcin Bulka in the starting line-up in Wednesday's match.

Hazlewood, Zampa help Aus beat England in first ODI

Manchester (IANS): Half centuries from Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh followed by some brilliant bowling effort from Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa helped Australia beat England in the first ODI despite maiden century from Sam Billings.

Put into bat, Australia found themselves reeling at 123/5 at one stage on Friday. However, Maxwell and Marsh took the responsibility on their shoulders and from there on, they took the team's score to 249/6. While Maxwell scored 77 off just 59 balls, Marsh contributed with valuable 73 runs and helped their team post a total of 294/9 in their allotted 50 overs.

Chasing what would have been a record chase at the Old Trafford in ODIs, England found themselves in trouble rather quickly as Hazlewood claimed the wickets of Jason Roy and Joe Root to reduce the host to 13/2 after 7.1 overs. Skipper Eoin Morgan and Jos Buttler also couldn't contribute much and the host were placed in a precarious situation at 57/4 after 16 overs.

However, Jonny Bairstow then combined with Billings and after a period in which both bats-

men struggled to find their timing, the opener got going with a pair of sixes off Zampa. But it was also the leg-spinner who put an end to Bairstow's charge after 84 runs and 107 balls.

Billings then took the charge and kept England in the hunt even as wickets kept falling at the other end. He reached his



maiden ODI century but was unable to keep up with the rate, and eventually fell for 118 on the final ball of the innings as Australia registered a 19-run win to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

The victory also helped Australia register their first points in the ICC World Cup Super League from their first match in the tournament, moving equal with Ireland on 10 points.

The two teams will now face each other in the second ODI on Sunday at the same venue.

Brief scores: Australia 294/9 (Maxwell 77, Marsh 73; Mark Wood 3/54) beat England 275/9 (Billings 118, Bairstow 84; Zampa 4/55) by 19 runs.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Martinez bags Stage 13, Roglic strengthens grip on yellow jersey

Puy Mary (France) (IANS): Primoz Roglic strengthened his grip on the yellow jersey with an emphatic climbing display on the double-digit ramp of the Pas de Peyrol to distance rival Egan Bernal after Dani Martinez won a thrilling Stage 13 from the break in the ongoing Tour de France.

Slovenia's Roglic paid back his Jumbo-Visma teammates for their indefatigable protection during the challenging stage in the Massif Central by riding clear of his key rival on the Tour's first-ever summit finish on the Puy Mary on Friday.

The only rider who could keep up with Roglic's stinging accelerations was his compatriot Tadej Pogacar of UAE Team Emirates, who finished in the yellow jersey's wheel to rise five places to second in the general classification as the expense of Bernal. Colombia's Bernal (Ineos Grenadiers) struggled



on the decisive climb, the defending champion forced to dig deep to limit his losses as the Slovenian duo made light work of the highest pass in the Massif Central.

AUS vs IND

Adelaide named as 'home' base for Test series

Melbourne (IANS): The onsite hotel at the Adelaide Oval is set to serve as biosecure bubble for the Australian men's squad ahead of the four-match Test series against India scheduled to be played towards the end of the year.

According to a report in cricket.com.au, the Aaron Finch-led squad, currently involved in a limited-overs series in the UK, would return to Adelaide for its mandatory quarantine period and preparation for the upcoming home season.

The players not involved in the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), as well as coaching and support staff, will



make Adelaide their home once the white-ball tour of England concludes following Wednesday's third ODI in Manchester.

"We are happy that we are able to assist the Australian men's

"Rest assured we have undergone rigorous procedures with Premier Steven Marshall and the SA Government, to ensure the safety of the public and the players.

"Our hope is that the Oval Hotel can continue to be used in the successful staging of international cricket this season," he added.

In the coming days, Cricket Australia will be announcing the schedule for India's tour of Australia, which includes the four-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and there are fears that the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) may lose the Boxing Day Test.

Delhi Capitals keen to win 1st IPL crown in 13th attempt

New Delhi (IANS): Delhi Capitals (DC) are one of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises that have shown a lot of promise, but haven't been able to translate that into title-winning performances.

Delhi Capitals, in its previous avatar as Delhi Daredevils, had reached the semi-finals in consecutive seasons -- the opening edition in 2008 and 2009. The franchise changed its name to Delhi Capital in December 2018, apparently in a bid to change its fortune in the world's most lucrative cricket T20 competition.

Then, under a new name and a new logo, the Shreyas Iyer-led team made it to its maiden playoffs last season. And it would surely be eager to go a step further and try and clinch what would be its maiden IPL title. The tournament gets underway in the United Arab Emirates on September 19.

DC's South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada says the team has the firepower to challenge and win the competition this season. "We had a really good season, so I know that we can challenge and win this competition because we came really close last season. But, also, it is a new tournament so we have to start again and we've got a nice group put together, nice team," he said.

With some valuable additions to the side, the Delhi-based franchise looks as formidable a side as any you can get in franchise-based T20 cricket league. However, a question that many would have in their minds would be if they can get consistency out of the likes of Rishabh Pant, who of late has been struggling for form.

Delhi Capitals will begin their campaign against Kings XI Punjab on September 20.

Strengths:

Delhi Capitals possessed one of the



strongest batting line-ups in IPL last year and this year they have strengthened it further. They already had the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Shimron Hetmyer and Iyer, and now they have Ajinkya Rahane, too, who could provide the team with the much-needed stability. Also they have power hitters in Marcus Stoinis, Alex Carey, and Prithvi Shaw who can rattle any bowling attack on their given day.

Having acquired Ravichandran Ashwin from Kings XI Punjab in a trade off, along with the already present Axar Patel, Amit Mishra and Sandeep Lamichhane, DC have several spin options. Knowing that the grounds in the UAE are traditionally spin friendly, Ricky Ponting would be looking forward to unleashing his spinners and cast a web around the oppo-

sition batters.

Weaknesses:

One of the main weaknesses of the team is to maintain consistency and get the most out of players like Pant and Shaw. Also, their fast bowling doesn't have enough pace; only Kagiso Rabada is able to bowl consistently above 140 kmph. Ishant Sharma will have a lot of responsibility on his shoulders to guide the young bowlers and it would be interesting to see how DC manage their pacers on the slow tracks on offer in the UAE.

Delhi Capitals squad: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Ajinkya Rahane, Shikhar Dhawan, Shimron Hetmyer, Prithvi Shaw, Marcus Stoinis, Lalit Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Keemo Paul, Daniel Sams, Alex Carey and Rishabh Pant (wicket-keepers), Kagiso Rabada, Sandeep Lamichhane, Ishant Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Avesh Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harshal Patel, Amit Mishra, and Anrich Nortje

Support Staff: Ricky Ponting (head coach), Mohammad Kaif (assistant coach), Samuel Badree (spin bowling coach), Ryan Harris (bowling coach), Sriram Somayajula (team analyst), Dhananjay Kaushik (assistant physiotherapist), Rajinikanth Sivagnanam (strength and conditioning coach), Patrick Farhart (physiotherapist), and Vijay Dahiya (head talent scout).

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