



# THE HANS INDIA

● Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 ●

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## WINDOWS



Security personnel patrol the premises of Taj Mahal after it reopened for public after six months on Monday. Only 5,000 tourists will be allowed to visit the Taj Mahal everyday

## Schools reopen in Haryana

**Gurugram/Faridabad:** In Unlock 4.0, schools opened from Monday, six months after the lockdown. Although some school managements agreed to open the schools due to the increasing impact of the corona infection, some chose to remain closed. There is still confusion among parents about sending their children to schools. Many children reported to schools with masks on and fully following social distancing. Under the Unlock 4.0 guidelines, classes for 9th to 12th grades can be open in schools.

## 11 killed in Thane building crash

**Thane (Maharashtra):** Eleven people were killed, several injured and more than two dozen were feared trapped after a three-storey building crashed in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi, around 60 km north of Mumbai, early on Monday, officials said. Among the deceased are four minors.

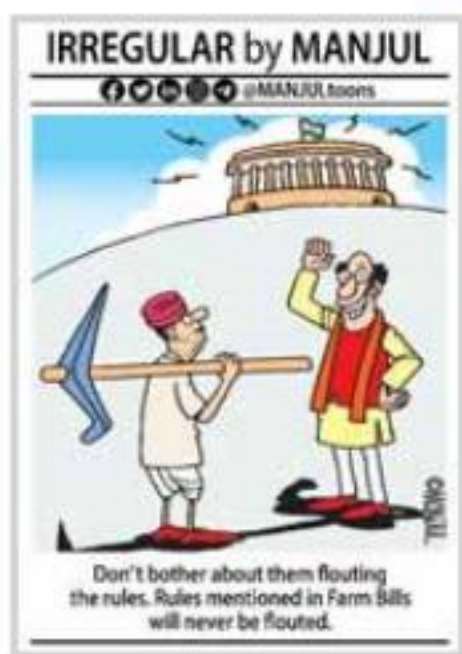
## Kafeel Khan takes battle to UN body

**Lucknow:** Gorakhpur's Dr Kafeel Khan, has taken his battle against the Yogi Adityanath government to an international level. Khan, who was recently absolved of charges under the stringent National Security Act and is now living in Jaipur, has written a letter to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) informing them about "widespread violations of international human right standards in India and misuse of draconian laws like NSA and UAPA to suppress voices of dissent".

## NATION



**10 trade unions to support nation-wide farmers protest**



TMC MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, National Conference MP Farooq Abdullah and others stage a protest over suspension of eight Rajya Sabha members in New Delhi on Monday

## Suspended Oppn MPs stage dharna

**RS Chairman rejects no-confidence move against Dy Chairman**

**New Delhi:** The eight Opposition Rajya Sabha MPs, who have been suspended over the ruckus on Sunday, are holding a sit-in protest near the Gandhi statue in Parliament.

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the fifth time, till Tuesday due to incessant protests against the suspension of the MPs. Despite several requests, the suspended MPs refused to leave the premises, thereby halting further proceedings inside the House. The Opposition parties are likely to meet the President in this regard.

With the eight members

— Derek O'Brien, Sanjay Singh, Rajiv Satav, KK Ragesh, Ripun Bora, Dola Sen, Syed Nazir Hussain and Elamaram Kareem — refusing to leave the House, the government said that the House cannot function unless the suspended Parliamentarians were removed.

Earlier in the day, Chairman Venkaiah Naidu expressed "deep pain" over Sunday's incident, and passed a motion of suspension against the eight MPs over their "unruly behaviour". Naidu also rejected the Opposition's no-confidence

motion against Deputy Chairman Harivansh following the uproar.

On Sunday, the uproar in the Upper House broke out over the Deputy Chairman's decision to extend the session beyond the scheduled 1 pm while overruling Opposition pleas to continue discussions on the contentious farm Bills the next day.

The House witnessed tumultuous scenes during the passage of the contentious farm bills as members from Opposition parties snatched and threw papers from the table and even broke the chairman's mic.

## DENIAL OF BOOKS TO EWS STUDENTS

**Child rights panel summons 45 Delhi pvt schools**

PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has sent notices to 45 private schools for providing books to poor class (EWS) students last week. According to a member of the commission, it is alleged that these schools have refused to give books to poor children.

The DCPCR received complaints that the children had not been given books by these private schools since April, the member said. Taking up the matter, the commission summoned the schools and resolved the issue, the member said the institutions have agreed to provide the textbooks. The Right to Education (RTE) Act mandates private schools to reserve 25 per cent seats for EWS/DG category and impart free and compulsory education to these students till the completion of elementary education. Under the Delhi RTE rules, students enrolled under the EWS/DG (disadvantaged group) categories in private schools have access to free textbooks, writing material and uniforms.

## IAF's Rafale fleet to have first woman pilot soon

**New Delhi:** A woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force will soon join the Golden Arrows squadron operating the newly-inducted Rafale fighter jets, official sources said on Monday. The woman pilot is undergoing training to fly Rafale aircraft, they said.

She has been flying MiG-21 fighters and was selected for the Rafale fleet following an internal process, the sources said. At present, the IAF has 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators. The total strength of women officers serving in the IAF is 1,875.

Last week, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik told Parliament that women fighter pilots are inducted and deployed in IAF as per strategic needs and operational requirements.

The Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF was resurrected on September 10 last year. The squadron was originally raised at Air Force sta-



At present, the IAF has 10 women fighter pilots and 18 women navigators. The total strength of women officers serving in the IAF is 1,875

tion, Ambala on October 1, 1951. The squadron has many firsts to its credit; in 1955 it was equipped with the first jet fighter, the legendary De Havilland Vampire.

Five French-made multirole Rafale fighter jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force on September 10 at the Ambala air force base.

Continued on Page 5

## HISTORIC FIRST

## 2 women officers to join Navy warships

**New Delhi:** In a historic first, two women officers — Lt Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lt Riti Singh — will be deployed as "Observers" onboard Indian Navy warships as part of the ship's crew, paving the way for women air combatants to operate from frontline warships.

"They would in effect, be the first set of women airborne combatants who would be operating from warships. Earlier, entry of women was restricted to the fixed wing aircraft that took off and landed ashore," Indian Navy



Sub Lt Riti Singh and Sub Lt Kumudini Tyagi, the first women airborne tacticians who will operate from deck of warships, pose for pictures after they passed out of Indian Navy's Observer Course in Kochi on Monday

spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said. Lt Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lt Riti Singh are part of a group of 17 officers of the Indian Navy, including four women officers and three officers of the Indian Coast Guard (13 officers of Regular batch and 4 women officers of Short Service Commission batch) who were awarded "Wings" on graduating as "Observers" (airborne tacticians) at a ceremony held on Monday at INS Garuda, Kochi.

Continued on Page 5

## New farm Acts will change ryots' economic conditions

### Mandis and MSP will stay, says PM Modi

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that the new farm Bills, that were passed in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday, will change the economic condition of farmers. Terming the passage of the farm Bills and the change in the farming sector the "need of 21st century India", Modi said the farmers would now be able to sell their produce at any rate and anywhere they want.

Modi assured the farmers that the farm Bills are not against the mandis (agricultural markets), and the government procurement of their produce and Minimum Support Price (MSP) will continue as before.

The Rajya Sabha passed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020,

through voice vote amid the ruckus caused by Opposition protests.

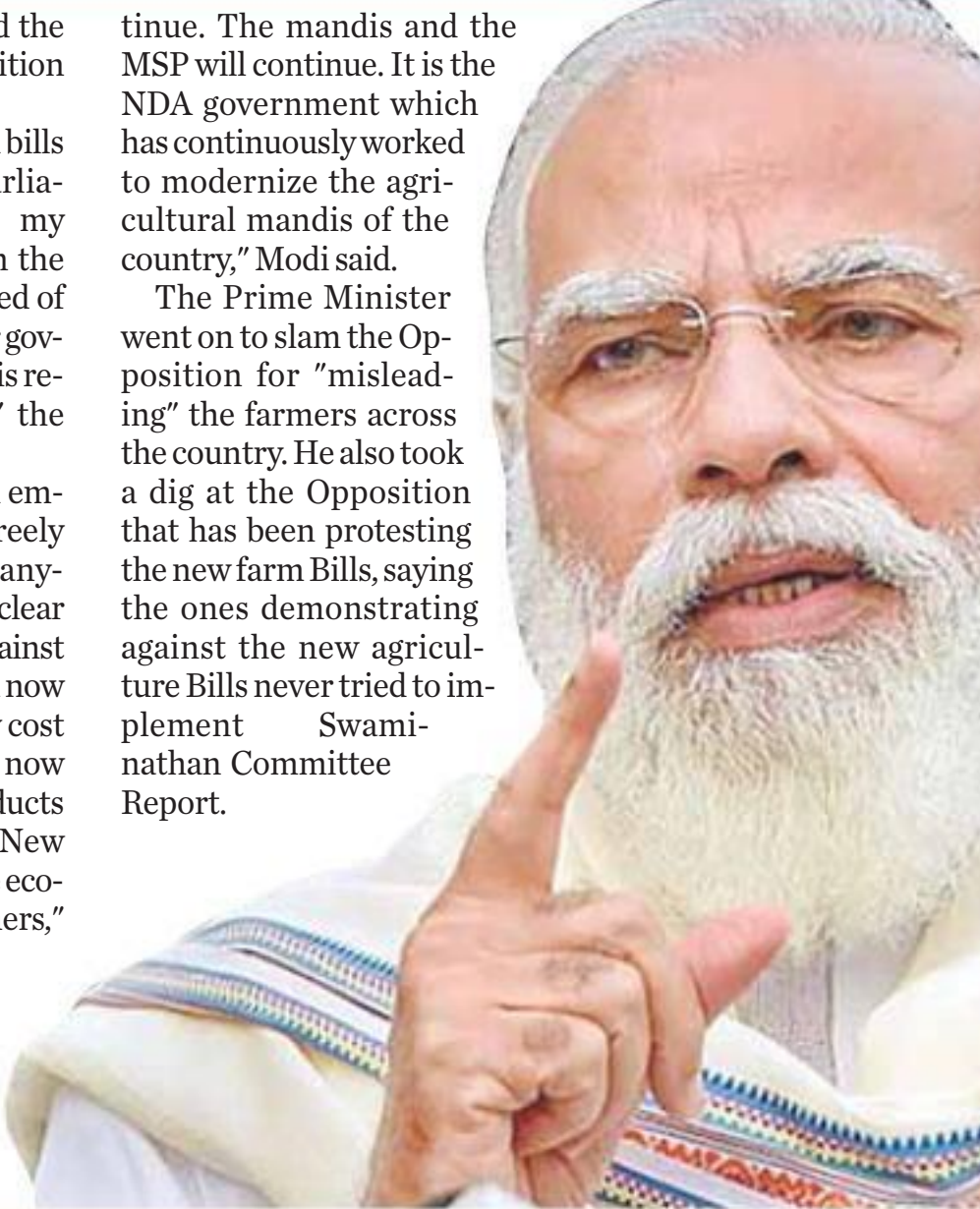
"On Sunday, two farm bills were passed in the Parliament. I congratulate my farmers. This change in the farming sector is the need of the present hour and our government has brought this reform for the farmers," the Prime Minister said.

"These farm Bills will empower the farmers to freely trade their produce anywhere. I want to make it clear that these bills are not against the mandis. Farmers can now sell their produce at any cost they want. They would now be free to sell their products anywhere they want. New farm bills will change the economic status of the farmers," Modi said.

"I want to assure farmers that minimum support price, govt procurement of their produce will con-

tinue. The mandis and the MSP will continue. It is the NDA government which has continuously worked to modernize the agricultural mandis of the country," Modi said.

The Prime Minister went on to slam the Opposition for "misleading" the farmers across the country. He also took a dig at the Opposition that has been protesting the new farm Bills, saying the ones demonstrating against the new agriculture Bills never tried to implement Swaminathan Committee Report.



### Centre hikes wheat MSP by ₹50 to ₹1,975 per quintal

**New Delhi:** The Union government on Monday hiked the minimum support price of wheat by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 1,975 per quintal to encourage farmers to increase cultivation of the crop.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was announced by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in

the Lok Sabha. The announcement comes in the backdrop of widespread protests by Opposition parties as also by farmer groups in Punjab, Haryana and some other states after Parliament passed two key farm

Bills on Sunday, which the government says will give farmers' marketing freedom and better price for their produce. Tomar said the CCEA has also approved increasing MSP of six rabi crops.

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# Womenia

## JJ's first virtual fashion show in three decades

To actually have the entire world as your audience and everybody has a front-row seat, I don't think anything can get better than this: JJ Valaya

PUJA GUPTA

"This is an exciting time. I know it's also a very trying time as well because a pandemic is upon us. But the pandemic is also throwing up a lot of options which perhaps nobody would have tried earlier. To do a complete fashion presentation virtually is something nobody thought of in the past. To actually have the entire world as your audience and everybody has a front-row seat, I don't think anything can get better than that," says veteran designer JJ Valaya in an interview.

The designer launched his latest couture collection at the first-ever digital India Couture



Week (ICW) and reveals, "This is a time when we need to share the joy and positive energy, to celebrate everything that is beautiful. We may not have a buoyant market, but this too shall pass, things never remain constant, life is full of ups and downs and we should celebrate the ups and learn from the lows. 'Bursa' is the royal nomad on a journey through time from the 13th to 17th century Ottoman empire. The opulence, the grandeur, the detail and it's culture are part of the design story.

Valaya, who started his journey three decades ago, says "there's no way you can replace the adrenaline rush of a show, the spectacle, the interaction between clothes and people, but adversity gives rise to opportunity. We are living in a digital era and one cannot ignore technology, the brand has to evolve with times and if the current generation is focused on screen time then that's the new normal."

"Being a three decade old brand has been one big adventure. Starting at a time when the industry was pretty much non-existent, to a time when fashion was a buzzword and everybody is very aware of what's happening. I think I couldn't have wished or hoped for a better journey.

From crawling to walking to stumbling to getting up, we had had many milestones, just doing everything on our

own, learning from our own mistakes and growing beautifully, we've had a long journey of many firsts," says the designer in the video-clip that launched his collection.

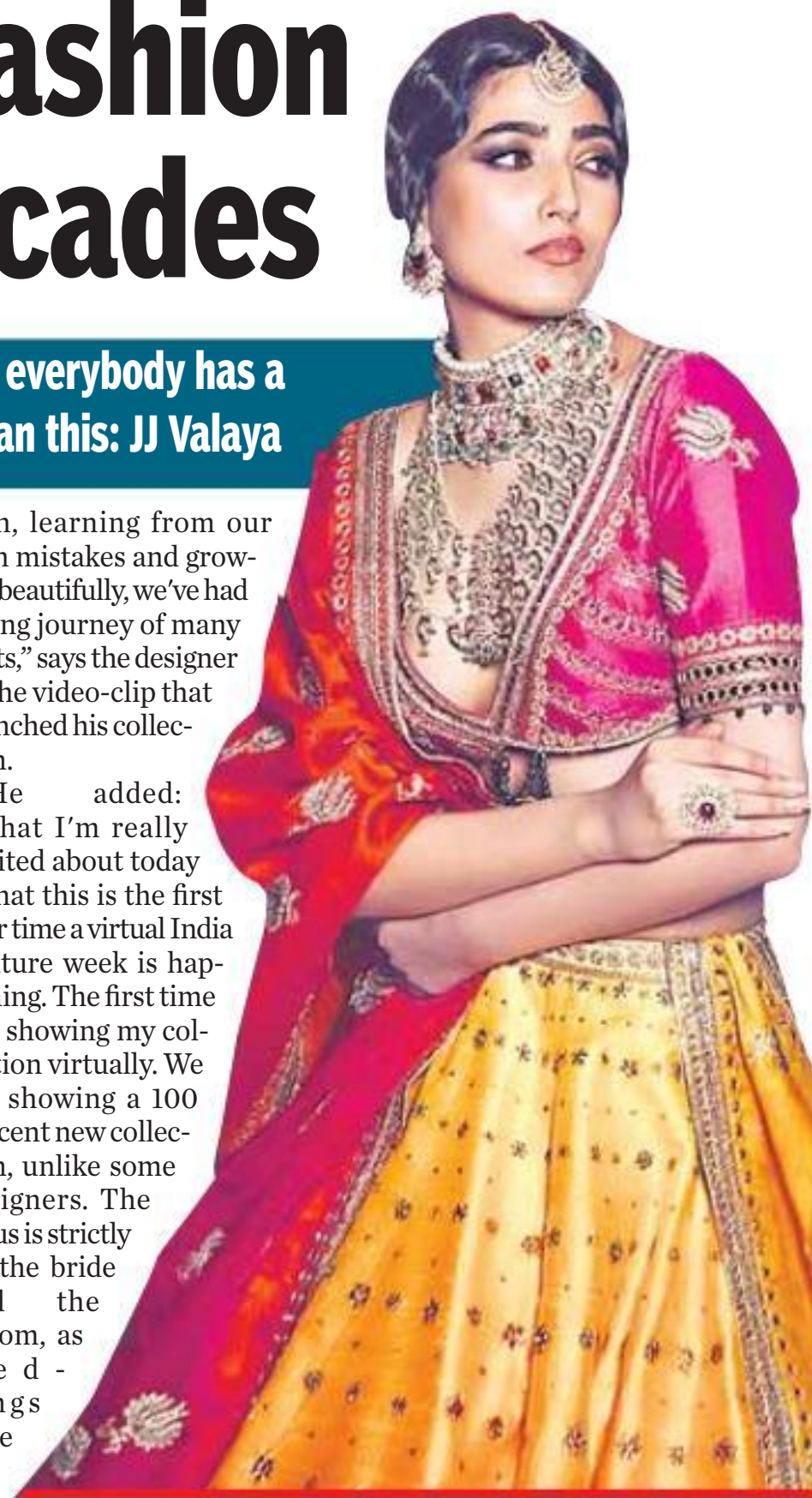
He added: "What I'm really excited about today is that this is the first ever time a virtual India couture week is happening. The first time I'm showing my collection virtually. We are showing a 100 percent new collection, unlike some designers. The focus is strictly on the bride and the groom, as we d - dings have

become smaller, we are showing bridal lehengas, sarees for women and sherwani for men."

Valaya showcased his latest line-up of wedding ensembles, inspired by the culture and arts of Turkey, "I tend to name my collection after one medieval city or the region where I've been inspired for. And this year's collection is all about the magnificence of the Ottoman Empire," he reveals. Valaya has

used burnished metallics and golds to give an antique aesthetic to the 48 pieces of lehengas, sherwanis, jackets and sarees that are embellished with Swarovski crystals, silk threads, beads, pearls and zardozi work on fabrics like silks and velvets.

Speaking of the crisis, "We cannot compound the dilemma we have to rise above it," believes the veteran.



## Treat your mane with homemade spa

Good hair makes you look great and shine around everyone. Taking care of your hair is as important as taking care of your face or any other parts of your body. There are multiple ways to take care of your hair, regular application of oil, shampooing or visiting a hair salon.

Spending money on the salon where so-called organic and homemade hair spa cream and homemade hair spa for dry and damaged hair are used but there is one more way to deeply nourish your hair with the home ingredients without spending much money. Here are some tips from which you can take inspiration and can treat your mane to a homemade spa:

### Egg and yoghurt

If you are facing the issue of dry and rough hair, hair paste or mask can work wonders and relieve you from all the tension. If your hair is mid-length-to long, pick two eggs with only whites and mix it with yoghurt. Make a thick paste of it and apply it on your hair. Keep it for an hour until dry and wash it with only cold water and let it dry. Wash your hair with shampoo the next day for better results. Use it fortnightly or every weekend regularly and you can see results. If you have short hair length take one egg and 3 spoons of yoghurt and do the above steps.

### Banana and yoghurt

If you have an itchy scalp or dry hair, hair mask made of banana and yoghurt can remove your dandruff issue and make your dry hair silky or manageable



again, depending on your hair type. Take one ripe banana, yoghurt as per your hair length and mix it well until a thick paste. Then apply it properly throughout your hair. Wash your hair with lukewarm water and shampoo to clean it properly. You can repeat this once every 15 days and have healthy hair and scalp.

### Coconut milk

The all-purpose hair mask will help you to heal your itchy scalp because of excessive dandruff or eating habits, increase your hair growth, cure dry hair and lessen split ends. If you have all the above issues with your hair, grate some coconut and grind it to make a loose paste-like solution. Apply this milk onto your hair and cover your hair with a hair cap and keep it for at least 5-6 hours. Wash it with cold water and let it dry and you can shampoo the next day for better results.

### Honey, lemon and olive oil

People facing issues like frizzy, dry and tangled hair can apply a hair mask made from these simple kitchen ingredients like honey, lemon and olive oil. Take a bowl, mix 2 lemons juice, 2 tablespoons of honey and one tablespoon of olive oil. Depending on your hair length use the quantity to boost your hair health.

### Henna and mustard oil

This would be unusual but it works wonders if your dandruff is repeatedly coming. Take a bowl of Henna powder as per your hair length and mix 1-2 spoon of mustard oil. Then start scrubbing this paste on your scalp for 15 minutes and then apply the remaining paste onto your hair for an hour. Remove it by scrubbing the longer part of your hair using water and then a shampoo after your hair is dry. This will not only heal your scalp but remove split ends without much effort.

## Dolly J's latest collection a salute to confident women

PUJA GUPTA

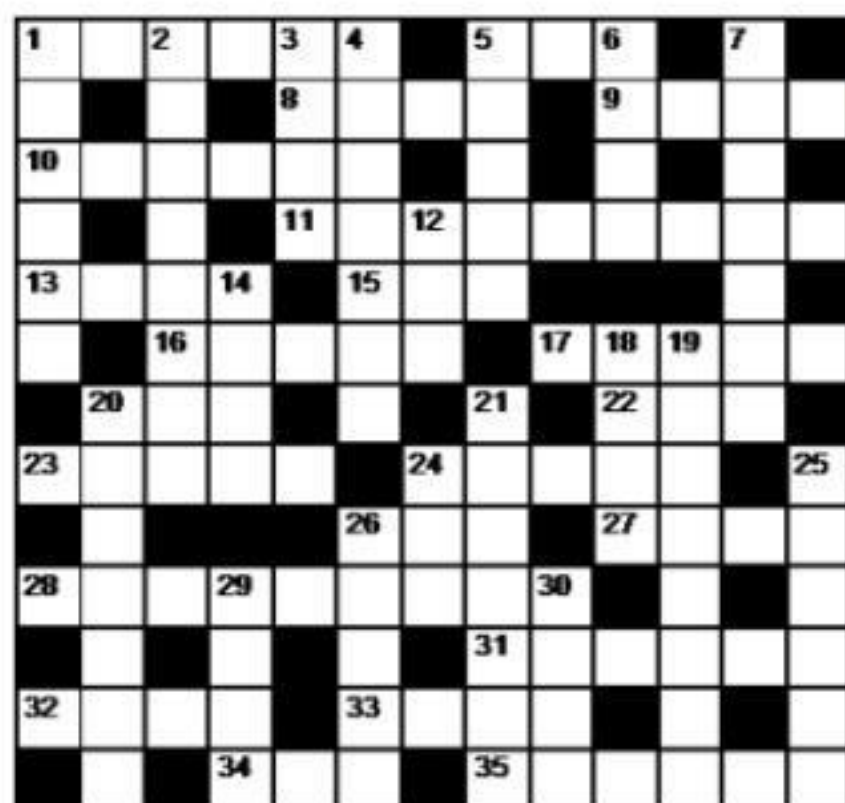
Designer Dolly J's latest couture collection celebrates body confidence and ethnicity. The designer launched her collection 'Gulenaar' on Day 3 of the first-ever digital edition of the India Couture Week (ICW), organised by the Fashion Design Council of India.

A short, musical video shot inside a palace, the designer showcased an line-up of ensembles for "functional bridal wear" comprising traditional red bridal lehengas, western gowns, drapes and sarees. "Nothing can dim the light that shines from within; nothing is more impressive than a 'Gulenaar' who does not seek validation as she is confident in the extraordinary way Universe has created her," says Dolly commenting on the idea behind the

The designer launched her collection on Day 3 of the digital edition of the India Couture Week (ICW)

collection. "This collection is for the confident woman who is happy in her shape, size and colour," reveals the designer. "It's a very exuberant collection. It is suspended between dream and reality."

Dolly has heavily used intricate handwork of silver and gold threads over the lehengas to maintain the mood of the fat Indian wedding. Fabrics like luxe silk organza, woven with jacquard have been used in a rich palette with a mix of pastels and jewel tones.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 21

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Had mind pictures while asleep (6)
- 5 Excavate (3)
- 8 Gaelic language (4)
- 9 Norse god (4)
- 10 Japanese floor mat (6)
- 11 Science of vision and eye-care (9)
- 13 Keen about (4)
- 15 Put down (3)
- 16 Rubber juice (5)
- 17 Correct (5)
- 20 For each (3)
- 22 Statute (3)
- 23 Sheriff's men (5)
- 24 Watch (5)
- 26 Fish appendage (3)
- 27 Bites or nibbles at (4)
- 28 Astonishing (9)
- 31 Rubber (6)
- 32 Major or minor in the sky? (4)
- 33 Persian fairy (4)

#### Down

- 34 Negatives (3)
- 35 Involuntary muscular contractions (6)
- 1 Arrest or delay (6)
- 2 Gives a right to (8)
- 3 Office note (4)
- 4 One of three (7)
- 5 Lure (5)
- 6 Blood and guts (4)
- 7 Energetic (7)
- 12 Burdensome charge (3)
- 14 Paddles (4)
- 18 Principal (4)
- 19 Overshadows (8)
- 20 Back door (7)
- 21 Victors (7)
- 24 Roman seven (3)
- 25 Supplants (6)
- 26 Failures (5)
- 29 Two-colour horse (4)
- 30 Grasp (4)

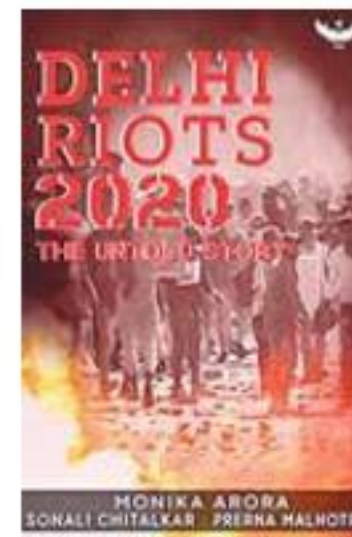
### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 21

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## 'DELHI RIOTS 2020: THE UNTOLD STORY' RELEASED



SIDDHI JAIN

Following much controversy and even a publisher switch, the book 'Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story', was released virtually by publishing house Garuda Prakashan on Sunday.

As per the publisher, the book - which was dropped last minute by its previous publisher Bloomsbury India - had received over 15,000 pre-orders on its website www.garudabooks.com within 24 hours of the book's announcement.

The book is co-authored by Monika Arora, Sr. Supreme Court Lawyer, Sonali Chitalkar, Assistant Professor, Miranda House, Delhi University, and Perna Malhotra, Author and Faculty at Ram Lal Anand College, Delhi University. "Through its extensive research on-ground, following the communal riots in North East Delhi in February 2020, the book unearths the untold facts and stories behind the riots that perturbed the national capital earlier this year," the publisher said in a statement.

"From February 29, the fact-finding team of GIA, the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians, made multiple visits to North East Delhi to gather data in the form of extensive interviews with victims, residents of the affected areas and law enforcement personnel. The authors met with religious leaders from both communities who worked to de-escalate the situation. The book is the final product of the intense research and data gathering from the violence-affected areas of North East Delhi," it added.

After being "de-platformed" by Bloomsbury India over a virtual launch that listed BJP leader Kapil Mishra as the chief guests, the book found a new publisher overnight. According to Garuda, the book launch is "a step towards decolonisation and restoring agency to Indian voices".

The book was launched virtually on the Facebook and YouTube channel of the publishing house.

"The book 'Delhi Riots 2020', with meticulous on-ground reporting attempts to bring an alternative perspective to the tragic events in Delhi. It also shows how violence was pre-planned and false narratives were spread intending to drive a wedge between communities," said Sankrant Sanu, CEO, Garuda Prakashan.



# Over 78% people used connections to get Covid-19 ICU bed: Survey

**New Delhi (IANS):** Only four per cent patients were able to get a Covid-19 ICU bed through the routine process, while 78 per cent had to use connections and clout, a survey revealed on Monday.

The number of Covid cases in India has mounted to 54 lakh and the country has been recording on average over 90,000 cases daily for the last two weeks. Hospitals now are seeing more critical patients than they did in May-June this year. With the rise in critical cases, the availability of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds has drastically reduced.

After receiving many complaints from citizens from across the country about their family friends or associates not being able to find an ICU bed at a gov-

ernment or private hospital, 'LocalCircles' decided to conduct a survey to get citizen's pulse on the issue and received over 17,000 responses from citizens located in over 211 districts of the country.

In the first question, LocalCircles asked citizens about the experiences of people in their social network in regard to getting a Covid-19 ICU bed. To ensure that the right feedback is sought, citizens were requested to make calls to their contacts in case they were unaware themselves about the detailed experience of their contact in getting an ICU bed.

In response, 55 per cent citizens said that they did not have any person in their network who needed a Covid ICU bed. These

respondents were taken out of the sample to only analyse experiences of citizens who had someone in their network needing a Covid-19 bed.

When this sample was analysed, 38 per cent respondents said they had to use clout to secure an ICU bed while seven per cent said they had to follow up extensively to secure the ICU bed. 40 per cent said they had to use their connections, follow up extensively.

They also had to escalate via social media or complain to the government to secure the ICU bed. Seven per cent said they had to bribe (cash or kind) hospital or government officials to secure the ICU bed, while only four per cent said they got the ICU bed without

any of the above. Another four per cent said they did not get an ICU bed at all.

In Delhi for instance, patients complained that the Delhi government's app, Delhi Corona, shows ICU beds available in some hospitals, however, when they call that hospital, they are told that the bed is not available.

The Delhi government also recently asked 33 big private hospitals in the state to reserve 80 per cent of their total ICU beds for the Covid-19 patients. However, whether that is actually implemented by the hospitals remains to be seen as an association of healthcare providers said that it would challenge the order in the high court because such a move would hamper the treat-

ment of non Covid patients with critical ailments.

In the next question, citizens were asked -- given the ICU beds shortage for Covid-19, should it be made mandatory for all hospitals to list on their websites and the building entrances the real time ICU bed availability. A whopping 92 per cent citizens responded in its favour while only seven per cent voted against it.

Over 17,000 responses were received across 211 districts of India. 65 per cent respondents were men while 35 per cent respondents were women. 52 per cent respondents were from tier 1 cities, 26 per cent from tier 2, and 22 per cent respondents were from tier 3, 4 and rural districts.



# 10 trade unions to support nation-wide farmers protest

**New Delhi:** As many as 10 central trade union on Monday announced their support to the nation-wide protest on September 25 by peasants and farm workers to oppose passage of two agri bills in Parliament, saying the BJP government should stop anti-farmers measures.

The joint platform of central trade unions and sectoral federations declares its support to the initiative of Joint Platform of Peasants and Agricultural Workers Organisations --the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee to hold countrywide protest and resistance on 25th September 2020, the central trade unions said in a joint statement.

"We also join them in protesting against the disastrous Electricity Amendment Bill 2020,"



the statement said.

The ten trade unions are NTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICTU, LPF and UTUC.

Two key farm bills, dubbed as the biggest reform in agriculture by the government, were on Sunday passed by Rajya Sabha with voice vote.

The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 have already been passed by Lok Sabha and will now go to the President for his assent before they are notified as laws.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has termed it as a "watershed moment" in the history of Indian agriculture, asserting that the bills will ensure a complete transformation of the farm sector and add impetus to the efforts to double the income of farmers.

The Congress and other opposition parties have slammed the bills as "death warrants" of farmers.

# INDIA RECORDS 1,130 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

**New Delhi(IANS):** With 86,961 fresh coronavirus cases and 1,130 deaths in 24 hours, India's Covid-19 tally on Monday inched closer to 55 lakh-mark with a total of 54,87,580 cases in 235 days since the first case was reported on January 30.

Out of the total cases, 10,03,299 are currently active, 43,96,399 have recovered, while 87,882 lost the battle against the pandemic.

Even though India rallies behind the US for the number of coronavirus cases, it has overtaken the country to become number one in terms of recoveries. The recovery rate stands at 79.68 per cent, while the fatality rate is 1.61 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 12,08,642 cases, including 32,671 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 7,31,534 sample tests in a single day on Sunday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 64,392,594. India is the second worst-hit behind the US which has 67,99,044 cases and 1,99,474 deaths. The total number of cases in the world stands at 3,09,18,269 and the fatalities are 9,59,332.



## 10 C'garh districts under lockdown

**Raipur:** Ten districts in Chhattisgarh, including state capital Raipur, have been put under lockdown from Monday amid spike in COVID-19 cases in these districts. The State capital -- which has been reporting 900-1,000 daily cases -- has been declared a containment zone.

Raipur, which is among the worst-hit districts, has been reporting a high number of infections. "Raipur district has so far reported over 26,000 COVID-19 cases and 900-1000 cases are being recorded daily. To break the chain of transmission, it has become necessary to declare the entire district a containment zone. Inter-district borders in Raipur will remain sealed during this duration," the order issued by Raipur Collector S Bharathi Dasan said.

All Central, state and semi government as well as private offices will remain closed, though government staff engaged in prevention and control of COVID-19 will continue to work as earlier, it said. No public meeting or rally will be allowed during the period, it said.



## Oppn to urge Prez not to sign Farm Bills

**New Delhi:** A day after two contentious farm bills were passed by Rajya Sabha amid a bedlam, a number of non-NDA parties wrote to President Ram Nath Kovind over the manner in which the government "pushed through its agenda" and urged him not to grant his assent to the proposed legislations.

According to sources, leaders of various political parties including the Congress, the Left parties, NCP, DMK, SP, Trinamool Congress and the RJD have in a memorandum to the President sought his intervention in the matter and asked him not to sign the bills.

The bills will become a law only after the President grants his assent to them. The two key farm bills, dubbed by the government as the biggest re-

form in agriculture, were passed by Rajya Sabha on Sunday with voice vote amid unprecedented unruly scenes by protesting opposition MPs.

Some opposition members charged towards the podium of Deputy Chairman Hariwansh, flung the rule book at him and tore official papers. They yanked his microphone and heckled him over their demand for a division of vote on their motion to refer the legislation to a select committee. Sources said the opposition parties have described the manner in which the bills were passed in Rajya Sabha on Sunday as "murder of democracy" by the ruling BJP. They have also sought time from the President for a meeting, likely on Tuesday.

## Orthopaedic doc dies in Kolkata

**Kolkata (IANS):** A 57-year-old orthopaedic doctor, Surajit Nandi, of Kolkata's Vidyasagar State General Hospital has died of Covid-19, sources said on Monday. As many as 28 doctors have reportedly died of coronavirus in West Bengal so far. A frontline corona warrior, Nandi tested positive for Covid-19 three weeks ago and was admitted to the CMRI Hospital at Ekbalpur. He died late Saturday night. Before joining the Vidyasagar Hospital at Behala, Nandi was associated with the Darjeeling district hospital where he served as an orthopaedic sergeant for a decade.

## Docs in UP warn against 'Corona cards'

**Lucknow (IANS):** Doctors are now warning people against wearing 'Corona cards' available in the market that 'promise' safety against the Coronavirus infection if worn around the neck.



Dr. Kamala Srivastava, a medical practitioner in the state capital, said, "I am shocked that the government has not bothered to ban the sale of these Corona cards that come with fancy names like 'Shut Out Corona', 'Corona out' and 'Go Corona'. These cards have not been approved by any medical authority and we do not know what is inside. Some of them smell like camphor."

The cards are worn around the neck, claiming to provide a protective shield against the virus. These are worn around the neck like the identity cards.

Dr. Vikas Mishra, associate professor, G.S.V.M. medical college in Kanpur, said there is no word or guideline about such cards from either the ICMR or the WHO.

"People are happily wearing these cards and moving around in crowded places which exposes them to the infection. Believing that any unverified and untested product would save one from the virus is foolishness and also exposes people to the danger of catching the infection," he added.

Medical stores are earning a handsome amount and owners say these cards are selling like hot cakes. The price range of these cards varies from Rs 75 to Rs 130, but people are purchasing them without knowing whether they are really beneficial or not.

Vikram Singh, a medical store owner, said he himself does not know what is inside the card as it is fully packed and gives out a camphor-like smell.

"The sales have gone up dramatically since the past two months. We are now selling 50 to 60 cards every day, even though there is no expiry date on them," he said.

## CHINESE ESPIONAGE RACKET CASE

## Journo sent to 7-day police custody

**New Delhi (IANS):** A Delhi court on Monday remanded Journalist Rajeev Sharma, Chinese woman Qing Shi and Nepalese citizen Sher Singh to seven-day police custody in connection with a Chinese espionage racket case.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pawan Singh Rajawat sent the three to police custody after they were produced before the court at the end of their previous remand period.

On September 14, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police had arrested 61-year-old Indian freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma, allegedly found working for Chinese intelligence.

During a search of Sharma's house in Pitampura here, one laptop, some confidential documents related to Indian De-



fence and some other incriminating papers were reportedly seized.

Rajeev Sharma has also moved a bail plea in the court, which will come up for hearing on Tuesday. The application, moved by advocate Amish Aggarwala on Sharma's behalf, put forth that he is being framed in a false case and has not committed any offence.

During his police remand, a Chinese woman Qing Shi and her Nepalese partner Sher Singh alias Raj Bohra were also arrested. They were found supplying the arrested scribe with huge amounts of money routed through hawala channels for conveying sensitive information to Chinese Intelligence, DCP Special Cell Sanjeev Yadav had said.

## Trainee pilot killed in UP chopper crash

**Lucknow (IANS):** A rookie pilot was killed after a helicopter carrying 4 people crashed in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district on Monday. Police and local authorities are the spot and rescue operations are underway. The incident took place in Sarai Meer in an agricultural field, according to details available, the aircraft crashed at nearly 11.20 a.m. One person died and another was injured in the crash, while two others jumped out of the aircraft with the help of parachutes. The deceased has been identified as trainee pilot Konark Saran. Amethi District Magistrate Arun Kumar said that the aircraft had taken off from the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, a pilot training institute located at Fursatganj Airfield of Amethi. The aircraft belonged to the academy.

## Thane building crash: 11 dead, 25 rescued

**Thane (IANS):** Eleven people were killed, several injured and more than two dozen were feared trapped after a three-storey building crashed in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi, around 60 km north of Mumbai, early on Monday, officials said.

Among the deceased are four minors. The injured have been rushed to hospitals in Kalyan, Dombivali, Kalwa and Thane. Twenty five, including an infant, have been rescued safely although 12 have suffered injuries from the crash.

Located in Patel Compound, the 40-year old Jilani Building, which was said to be in a dilapidated state, suddenly came crashing down around 3.45 a.m., catching all the vic-



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and fire brigade rescue an injured child after a three storey building collapsed, at Bhiwandi in Thane district.

tims unaware in their sleep. Locals said that the building was in a poor condition and had been served notices by the Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation, but those were ignored. Besides there were unattended problems of leakages and seepages which may have weakened the structure located in a congested locality of the town. Teams of Thane police, fire brigade units of BNMC and neighbouring towns and the National Disaster Response Force reached the site and have been carrying out relief and rescue operations. Till 9 a.m., at least 25 people were rescued, while another two dozen were still feared trapped under the debris.

## Shraddha, Sara Ali may be summoned in drugs case

**Mumbai:** Actors Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan may be called for questioning this week in the widening drugs probe linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death investigations. Their names reportedly came up during the questioning of actor Rhea Chakraborty, who was arrested on September 9 on charges of organizing drugs for her boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput, according to NDTV report. The Narcotics Control Bureau may put out summons to these actors later this week in connection with the first case registered by the federal agency based on the alleged WhatsApp message retrieved from



Rhea Chakraborty's mobile phone. The agency had registered second case based on the seizure of 59 grams of Marijuana in which over 15 people have been arrested including Rhea Chakraborty. Besides Rhea Chakraborty, the others arrested earlier this month were her brother Showik Chakraborty, two employees of Sushant Singh Rajput and alleged drug dealers who have been linked to Bollywood. Rhea Chakraborty was questioned for three days before her arrest on charges of arranging drugs for Sushant Rajput, and had reportedly named some stars in connection with drugs use.

# Chinese Air Force video shows simulated attack on US Air Base



**Beijing:** China's air force has released a video showing nuclear-capable H-6 bombers carrying out a simulated attack on what appears to be Andersen Air Force Base on the US Pacific island of Guam, as regional tensions continue to rise.

The video, released on People's Liberation Army Air Force Weibo account, came as China carried out a second day of drills near Chinese-claimed Taiwan, to express Beijing's anger at the visit of a senior U.S. State Department

official to Taipei.

Guam is home to major U.S. military facilities, including the air base, which would be key to responding to any conflict in the Asia Pacific region.

The Chinese air force's two minute and 15 second video, set to solemn, dramatic music like a trailer for a Hollywood movie, shows H-6 bombers taking off from a desert base. The video is called "The god of war H-6K goes on the attack!"

Halfway through, a pilot

presses a button and looses off a missile at an unnamed seaside runway.

The missile homes in on the runway, a satellite image of which is shown that looks exactly like the layout of Andersen, though it is not named.

The music suddenly stops as images of the ground shaking appear, following by aerial views of an explosion.

"We are the defenders of the motherland's aerial security; we have the confidence and ability to

always defend the security of the motherland's skies," the PLAAF wrote in a brief description for the video.

Neither China's Defence Ministry nor U.S. Indo-Pacific Command immediately responded to a request for comment on the video.

Collin Koh, a research fellow at Singapore's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, said the video was aimed at highlighting China's growing prowess in long-range power projection.

"The video is meant to warn the Americans that even supposedly safe, rearward positions such as Guam may come under threat when conflicts over regional flashpoints, be it Taiwan or South China Sea, erupt," he said.

The H-6 has been involved in multiple Chinese flights around and near Taiwan, according to Taiwan's air force, including those last week.

The H-6K is the latest model of the bomber, which is based on the 1950s vintage Soviet Tu-16.



## Iron fist in a velvet glove

In recent years, Confucius Institutes have come under scrutiny as they are viewed as massive 'soft power' campaigns. These CIs are under watch as they influence global discourse about China and protect China's image from being tarnished within the international context. The Hanban Website indicates that there are currently 541 Confucius Institutes (CI) operating in several countries.

The most rapid expansion, however, took place within the first six years (2004-2010) when Hanban established 322 Confucius Institutes and 369 Confucius Classrooms (CCs) in 96 countries. This should not be any topic of interest for people other than the students who wish to pursue their Chinese courses to better their academic qualifications and in pursuit of employment. But this is the not the case, however, because of the role the CIs are playing in giving their feedback to Chinese government.

The USA is the leading country with 81 CIs while the UK is the second one with only 30. This unprecedented growth has raised the eyebrows of several aca-

demicians, law makers, and activists as to what extent China would go to exert its soft power in the world. The CIs' are not private institutes run like any institutes (of other countries).

Headquartered in Beijing under the direct financial and managerial supervision of one of China's most important government bureaus, the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Chinese Language Council International, known colloquially as Hanban, operates Confucius Institutes all over the world. Informed opinion tells us that it is a misguided perception to claim that CIs are very similar to the well-known European language and cultural organisations, such as the British Council, Alliance Française, etc. This narrative is misleading and tends to give CI its unearned credibility.

Although Hanban likes to compare Confucius Institutes to European language and culture organisations, such as the Alliance Française and the Goethe Institute, CIs are fundamentally different in significant ways. For example, unlike the European counterparts, CIs are not only stand-alone but are also strictly under the Ministry of Education's supervision and direction. CIs deliberately seek and explore to associate with prestigious institutions in host countries

for garnering prestige and credibility to CIs.

Hanban has shown a great deal of eagerness and excitement to establish partnerships with host country institutes but has not matched their willingness with similar zeal to allow host country programmes in China. To this end, the US has criticised Hanban's lack of reciprocity. The Constitution and By-laws of CI stipulate that permission or authorisation from the Hanban Headquarter is required before any activity is conducted under the CI's name.

This condition leaves no programming flexibility for host institutes. This denies participants access to multiple perspectives and is, thus, tantamount to ideological indoctrination. India has only three Confucius Institutes, located at the University of Mumbai, Vellore Institute of Technology, and Lovely Professional University. In recent months, these Institutes have come under the scrutiny of the Government of India and could be shut down any moment.

What these CIs and CCs do is simple: they give you money and ask you not to talk about Tibet, about Xinjiang, Wuhan, Tiananmen Square, Falun Gong, Leh etc. These institutes are meant to wage Chinese psychological war against the world. Let's know this.

## Building agriculture ecosystems – the next frontier

RAJNATH SINGH

With the passing of two landmark agriculture Bills in both Houses of Parliament, we have been able to take the next step as a nation towards our vision of transforming farmers into entrepreneurs with higher incomes and better quality of life, cementing India's position in the global market and ensuring "Atmanirbhar Agriculture".

This is the result of endless dedication and determination of the government over the last 6 years, under the visionary and capable leadership of our Prime Minister. The passage of both the Bills in Parliament is indeed a landmark day for Indian Agriculture.

I am thankful to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his vision to unleash the true potential of India's agriculture. I must also congratulate and applaud the Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar for explaining all aspects of the Bills with clarity and conviction in both the Houses of Parliament.

Over the last few years, our government has launched a number of bold initiatives for farmers and the agriculture sector including, a Rs. 6,685 crore scheme for the formation of 10,000 FPOs that will organize farmers into self-sufficient groups with the best access to markets, finance and production technologies, the one-of-its kind Rs. 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to build community farming assets and at-scale infrastructure for post-harvest management, the national Agriculture Export Policy with a vision of doubling agriculture exports to \$60 billion by 2022, etc.

More than Rs. 90,000 Crore of direct benefit for farmers has been disbursed under PM-KISAN, which has been instrumental in providing livelihood security for farmers. Now, with these latest reforms, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020, we have created the foundation to build a modern and world-class agriculture ecosystem that will not only benefit farmers but also consumers, wholesalers, processors, and start-ups.

There are a few who believe that these reforms will result in the end of procurement at MSP by central agencies like FCI, closure of existing APMCs, loss of farmer land to large MNCs and corporates, etc.

I would like to assure all of them that whether it is MSP or APMCs, all existing systems will continue, and we have laid down stringent safeguards enshrined in these Acts to secure farmers from any malpractices. Rather than the end of existing systems, the reforms will introduce competition and efficiency and improve these systems, as well as create freedom and choice for farmers.

Let's start with farmers. A Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), which is an aggregation of farmers, provides higher bargaining power to farmers and helps them realize benefits from economies of scale. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and the market reforms have now provided additional enablers and opened up new opportunities for FPOs.

They can invest in farm equipment and infrastructure viably and build deep forward market linkages by entering into agreements with agribusinesses. These agreements will help by improving access to advisory, technology, and investment, aligning variety mix and quality as per market demand, etc. ensuring higher incomes.

One of the best examples of a successful FPO is Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company Limited in Maharashtra. It started as a small FPO and has now emerged as one of the biggest exporters of grapes and many other crops from India. More than 8,000 marginal farmers are registered under the FPO which today exports more than 16,000 tonnes of grapes every season. It helps farmers enter into MoUs with leading FMCG companies and access high-tech infrastructure, providing a significant boost to farmer income.

But people often ask "why aren't there 100s of Sahyadri Farms" – the reason in part is that the current restrictive frameworks and conditions did not provide enough incentives for investment in agriculture. With these initiatives and reforms we will have tens of thousands of such success stories, and what we've seen in the last 3-4 months since the Ordinances were promulgated across the country is only the beginning.

With improved market linkages, we will also see a shift in what our farmers produce. For a long time now, India has been self-sufficient in many crops including rice, wheat, etc. and we have a surplus year after year. An increase in understanding of market demand and trends, through direct engagement with agribusinesses, will enable farmers to diversify crop and variety mix with higher market value and reduce dependency on imports. For example, due to low domestic production, India currently imports more than \$10 billion of edible oils.

Similarly, we are seeing an increasing demand for healthy foods like Kiwi, Avocado, etc. in cities which is primarily served by imports. With the reforms, investments can come in and farmers will be able to gather the necessary market intelligence and security to diversify crop mix, increase domestic productivity to substitute away from imported crops, and lead India to complete self-sufficiency.

The reforms will also provide an opportunity to agribusinesses to build a consistent supply of a consistent and standardized variety by direct procurement from farmers. This will help agribusinesses run their operations more efficiently and boost our export volumes and share of food processing. Agribusinesses will also be able to help eliminate other system inefficiencies like high intermediary and logistics costs. For example, more than 1000 seed potato farmers in Punjab, Northern Haryana, and Western UP have benefited from an overall increase of 10 per cent - 30 per cent in productivity and 35 per cent margin above cost under agreement with Technico Agri Sciences Limited (a subsidiary of ITC).

There are thousands of similar examples of agribusinesses working with farmers across the country leading to higher farmer income and development of agribusinesses. Based on recent FSSAI food business license data, the number of applications has shown an increase of nearly 20 per cent year-on-year. A similar trend is expected going forward which will drive huge investment in the agriculture sector.

Beyond the investment in traditional agribusinesses, market reforms will drive innovation in the sector and allow new business models to evolve. Different businesses such as farm management services, quality grading and assaying centres, Grade-A warehousing companies, digital marketplaces, etc. are currently nascent but growing.

For example, Traxen, a global platform for tracking investments and trends in startups across 300+ sectors and 30+ countries, reports that in their latest funding rounds since 2018 Indian agri startups in farming inputs and services, agri marketplaces, logistics and storage, have raised ~\$150+ Mn, etc. NASSCOM estimates that ~\$250+ Mn was raised in 2019 by agri-tech startups.

With the liberation of the agriculture sector, innovative business models will attract more investor money and can achieve scale, benefiting lakhs of farmers. Innovations in farm management will improve productivity, improvement in post-harvest management will reduce wastage, digital marketplaces will increase reach and market linkages, and so on. Most promisingly, the market reforms will drive private capital formation in the agriculture sector and hence, give a significant boost to the rural economy. Capital formation in agriculture and allied industries has been stagnant with less than 2 per cent CAGR over the last 5 years and private sector investments are further declining due to gaps in access. With the new market reforms, we will see significant growth in private sector investment across the value chain.

This will create new jobs in allied sectors such as logistics service providers, warehouse operators, processing unit staff, etc. We will also see multi-generational agriculture jobs – children of farmworkers can now aspire to become FPO CEOs or managers for procurement and marketing, without having to go to cities for such opportunities. Overall, market reforms will provide multiple socio-economic benefits like higher incomes for farmers, new jobs, rural infrastructure development, etc. India is at the cusp of a new frontier in agriculture growth and development – one that farmers, businesses, government and consumers will build together. Multiple different initiatives of the government have been leading us down this path, and with the passing of the two Acts, we are now well-poised to make our vision of doubling farmer income, building India as the food basket of the world, and providing meaningful livelihoods in the agriculture and allied sectors a reality.

(The author is Union Defence Minister)

# Democracy or 'Kakistocracy'?



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

The journalists, critics and social media writers today are facing false cases foisted by the State and Police. A senior journalist is fighting a sedition case for criticising the Centre's policies. A doctor in the Government Hospital was victim of abuse of the state power but rescued by the High Court. One news web portal Telugu One.com is out of the cobweb of false cases, thanks to the High Court of Andhra Pradesh which gave a strongly worded judgement on 13th September quashing all the false charged slapped in an FIR by CID (<https://www.livelaw.in/news-updates/registration-of-crime-by-police-without-material-allegation-to-constitute-cognisable-offence-creates-impression-of-kakistocracy-may-lead-to-anarchy-ap-hc-read-petition-162863#.X13DpIHF3uY>).

The judgement serves two purposes, one – immediate relief to editors and proprietors of Telugu One. Com besides giving a strong message to police not to meddle with freedom of expression to please the political bosses. Second purpose it served is it explains how the false sections could be thwarted out. The judgement is ray of hope in the pitched darkness of anti-criticism vengeance spread all over the nation. Had it happened two decades ago, the Home Minister and Addl. DGP would have resigned in shame.

Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy asked: Are we, now, living in democracy or Kakistocracy?

Telugu One.com office was ransacked, and a FIR with false charges was slapped against it. The news portal has just uploaded an audio clip of leaked conversation from CM's office criticising the rule of the Jagannathan Reddy government (listen the talk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG2AHRj4Y8>). Their talk with each other had two salient points - AP people's suffering was the worst among all the States in India, and government failed to address the proliferation of Covid virus. The news portal's headquarters is in capital city of neighbouring state, Hyderabad, wherein a team of CID police officers landed and took away dozens of computers and other electronic equipment, which High Court called as "nothing but exhibiting over enthusiasm by the officials to please the political party in power".

### Audio clip of TeluguOne.Com

The web-portal filed a writ petition for quashing FIR against their Managing Director and others. Four false charges are made against him in FIR.

- Crime under Sections 188 of IPC alleging Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant (Six months Imprisonment & Rs 1000 fine) "Whoever, knowing that, by an order prom-



How imaginative the AP State CID Police could be? Unimaginable. Just for uploading an audio critical of CM's actions four criminal offences were foisted. Anybody who listens to the audio will understand how the police was atrocious. In fact, the police is causing serious harm to Jagannathan Reddy's government with such illegal and abusive actions

ulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, he is directed to abstain from a certain act, or to take certain order with certain property in his possession or under his management, disobeys such direction, shall, if such disobedience causes or tends to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury, or risk of obstruction, annoyance or injury, to any person lawfully employed, be punished...."

- Section 505 (2) of IPC Statements conducing to public mischief: (1) Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report, (b) with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquillity; or....(3 years Imprisonment or fine)
- Section 506 of I.P.C Punishment for criminal intimidation.—Whoever commits, the offence of criminal intimidation shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both; If threat be to cause death or grievous hurt, etc
- Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 Punishment for false warning.—Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic, shall on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine. —Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic, shall on

conviction, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine."

How imaginative the AP State CID Police could be? Unimaginable. Just for uploading an audio critical of CM's actions four criminal offences were foisted. Anybody who listens to the audio will understand how the police was atrocious. In fact, the police is causing serious harm to Jagannathan Reddy's government with such illegal and abusive actions.

The High Court examined each section and questioned on facts and law the deficiencies. It found, among papers submitted, no details about statement or its circulation, rumour content or alarming news based on religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste, or community. Each Police charge collapsed as follows:

- Section 188 of IPC:** There is nothing to show that crime u/s 188 of I.P.C. (disobedience to order of public servant) was committed. First of all, there should be some order or ordinance promulgated by any public servant, secondly accused should have disobeyed it. Without these two the offence does not arise. As per Section 195(1)(a)(i) of Cr. PC it is mandatory to have a written complaint from the public servant. In the absence of such complaint, its non-compliance is not possible and hence it would vitiate the prosecution.
- Section 505 of IPC:** How can talk between two persons about general administration cause enmity? No legal knowledge is needed to say so. Common sense is essential of course. There was no material to show feeling of enmity, hatred between different groups,

## LETTERS

### Corona warriors deserve better

Our "corona warriors" are now being abandoned while they deserve acknowledgement and respect for putting their lives at stake and helping us survive. The Indian Medical Association is infuriated after the statement of Dr. Harshvardhan in Parliament which had no word on the doctors who died in the line of duty.

IMA has accused the government of "indifference" and "abandonment of heroes". IMA stated that government "loses the moral authority to administer the Epidemic Act 1897 and Disaster Management Act". It has also published a list of doctors who died due to coronavirus and demanded the doctors to be treated as martyrs. This is indeed justified as it's now our turn to really thank and acknowledge their sacrifice. These warriors deserve much more respect as not only their lives but their families lives were also at stake. On the other hand government's lack of accountability is again highlighted through these statements.

Vani Saxena, Ujjain

### Govt, Oppn both to be blamed

The incident that happened in the Rajya Sabha, the other day, is quite unfortunate. Both the ruling dispensation and the opposition are to be blamed for the



incident. The BJP should have heard the opposition voices in the first instance. It should have allowed for a full-fledged debate in the House. The bills were passed in haste. The behaviour of the opposition MP's - resulting in the suspension of some eight members - is rather quite unparliamentary. To maintain discipline and order in the House, some kind of code of conduct now seems to be necessary. The PM has assured that the farmers will get the MSP for their produce. The middlemen are being eliminated now. It is a good move. The fear among the farmers that the corporates would now exploit the farmers is to be allayed by the government.

Sravana Ramachandran, Chennai

It is very shocking to read the statement of the Congress M.P. Rahul Gandhi which describes the passing of the Farm Reforms Bills as 'death orders against farm-

ers'. The Congress and other opposition parties are misleading the farmers with their statements which are made with certain selfish motifs. In fact, the new Farm Reforms Bills empower the small and marginal farmers and they make them self-reliant. If there are any losers, they are the commission agents who have been squeezing the pulp of the farmers all these years. The provisions in the new Bill will definitely benefit the farming community to a great extent in the coming years.

Venkata Seshasai Deevi, Narasaraopet

### Set up rural libraries

Our leaders have failed to establish 100 per cent rural libraries even after 74 years of independence. Our literacy is increased to 74 per cent as per 2011 Census now it is nearly 85 per cent. New literates, rural students, youth prepare for competitive exams, women and senior citizens need libraries to enhance their knowledge and utilise their leisure time. Setting up of libraries is a state subject and no state government is establishing libraries due to lack of funds. The union government should start a mission of "100 percent libraries in 100 days" and allot sufficient funds. Our neighbour China established libraries in all villages in stipulated time bound period. Our leaders should think about it. Libraries can change the rural people in many ways

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# CM launches all-rounder app for police services

- One can launch complaint, track progress on the AP Police Seva app in which the existing Disha app too has been integrated
- CM tells people not to fear police, treat them as public servants
- In a first-of-its-kind, AP Police-Seva app also has of a fact-check feature, where one can verify the authenticity of the news reports circulated on news outlets and social media

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the AP Police Seva app which would enable registration of complaints online and also monitor the follow-up action.

Speaking after the launch of the app here on Monday, the Chief Minister said complaints could be lodged and their status could be monitored online through the application. He said this was in tune with the friendly policing concept that would instil confidence among the people.

The new app offers 87 types of services connecting all police stations across the state besides integrating the existing Disha app as well. There is no need to be afraid of police but they



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launches the AP Police Seva app at his camp office on Monday. Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharita, DGP D Gautam Sawang are also seen.

should be treated as public servants, he said. The citizens needn't go to the police station for lodging a complaint but can use the app and can track the status of the complaint. A receipt is generated after lodging the complaint and the progress can be tracked without going to police stations.

The Chief Minister requested the people to download the AP Police-Seva app and utilise the services. He stated that the app consists of 12 modules related to women's safety, where even the Disha app was integrated. There

is also the facility of making video calls in case of emergencies along with complaints through WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter. So far, 11 lakh people have downloaded Disha app and 568 cases have been registered and in 117 cases, FIR was filed. In addition, the app also comprises six road safety modules, where a report of an accident victim can be filed online and further linked to hospital services. Similarly, it has 15 modules of cybercrime, where one can report any sort of cybercrime.

First of its kind, the AP Police-Seva app consists of a fact-check

feature, where one can utilise these services to find the authenticity of the news reports or the news being circulating in social media. The feature aims to curb the spread of fake news and messages. Right from the monitoring of house safety to passport services, lost documents and other verification services are available in this app.

The Chief Minister congratulated the police department for developing the app. Home minister Mekathoti Sucharita, DGP D Gautam Sawang and other officials were present.

## HC extends status quo in 3 capitals case till Oct 5

**Amaravati:** The High Court on Monday further extended till October 5 the *status quo* on the two new laws that enable the establishment of three new capitals for the state.

A division bench of the court, comprising Chief Justice J K Maheshwari and justices A V Sessa Sai and M Satyanarayana Murthy, which further heard a batch of interlocutory applications filed by the Rajadhani Rythu Parirakshana Samiti and others, extended the *status quo* and posted the case to October 5 for the next hearing.

The Supreme Court had refused to grant any relief to the state government on the High Court's earlier orders in the matter.

The court granted a week's time to the state chief secretary Nilam Sawhney to file a counter affidavit in a contempt case related to the issue.

A contempt petition was filed alleging that the state government was going ahead with the construction of a guesthouse at Kapuluppada village near Visakhapatnam.

As the guesthouse construction was also a part of the move to locate the executive capital in Visakhapatnam, the petitioner contended that it amounted to violation of the *status quo* ordered by the High Court.

The bench on August 27 directed the state chief secretary to file a counter to this by September 10 but the government on Monday sought more time for this. (PTI)

## Minister alleges political conspiracy behind temple attacks



Ministers meet Visakha Sri Sharda Peetham seer Sri Swaroopanandendra Saraswathi on Monday

- Endowments Minister and other Ministers show the model of Antarvedi chariot to be rebuilt to Sri Sharda peetham seer
- Vellampalli accuses TDP chief of politicising every incident

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Visakhapatnam:** Endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao, minister Sri Ranganatha Raju, Brahmin Corporation chairman Malladi Vishnu and revenue commissioner Arjuna Rao met Visakha Sri Sharda Peetham seer Sri Swaroopanandendra Saraswathi on Monday.

The ministers presented the model of the new Antarvedi chariot to Sri Swaroopanandendra Saraswathi.

The pontiff said that the chariot should be grander than the

previous one. Burning of chariots were a sign of misfortune, so remedial rituals like homam should be performed, the seer suggested.

Later, the endowments minister alleged that there was a political conspiracy against the government and attacks on temples were part of it.

The government is taking all measures to prevent any recurrence of attacks on the temples as the government is working to protect the temple lands also. He said that the TDP government had demolished several temples in the past in the name of Krishna Pushkaralu. The government is also thinking about how to rebuild them.

Former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is politicising everything, he said. He assured that Simhachalam temple lands issue will be resolved as soon as the court approves it.



AP Minister of Irrigation P Anil Kumar Yadav felicitating Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Shram Shakti Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday

## Centre assures Polavaram dues soon

**Irrigation Minister Anil Kumar Yadav meets Union Minister for Jal Shakti to explain progress of project works and request clearing of dues**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi:** Centre has promised to release the pending funds for Polavaram irrigation project at the earliest, AP minister for irrigation P Anil Kumar Yadav said.

Anil Kumar who met the Union minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, here on Monday, said he broached several issues regarding Polavaram with the latter.

He said the Union minister was appraised of the pace of the ongoing works of the project and the need for releasing the pending funds.

Among the pending bills were the R & R package funds, reimbursement bills for the works completed and regular releases due to the project, he said.

Speaking to the media, Anil Kumar Yadav said he also explained the importance of projects on Krishna river to the Rayalaseema region.

The arid region of Rayalaseema had been neglected for decades and unless Krishna waters were released to it, it would not progress.

On his plea to the Centre to help AP in clearing the projects, the Union minister reportedly suggested to make use of the Apex Council to clear all doubts and get the needful done.

## Don't go to Tirumala without declaration, TDP tells CM

- Ex-Minister Jawahar says Jagan need not present silk vastrams to the Lord if he doesn't intend to sign declaration as per temple rules

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** TDP advised Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy not to visit Tirumala to present silk vastrams to Lord Venkateswara during Brahmotsavams unless he gives a declaration as per the age old tradition.

Former minister and senior TDP leader K S Jawahar said in a statement on Monday that Jagan should not go to the temple if he has no faith in the deity of Tirumala.

The TDP leader criticised minister Kodali Nani for his highly objectionable statements that hurt the sentiments of Hindus everywhere. The YSRCP ministers, MLAs and leaders along with their Chief Minister should not come to Tirumala temple if they do not have faith, Jawahar added.

TTD former chairman Putta Sudhakar Yadav, in a statement, demanded that the TTD administration should not scrap the long-established tradition of declaration to be submitted by non-Hindus before having darshan at the temple. If such traditions were tampered with now, it would spoil the overall atmosphere of sacredness of the shrine, he warned.

## Yoga Narasimha graces Simha vahanam



Sri Malayappa Swamy Simha Vahanam on the third day Brahmotsavalu at Tirumala on Monday

- Malayappa Swamy, the processional deity of Lord Venkateswara, blesses devotees in the Narasimha avataram on the third day of Brahmotsavam
- Muthyapu pandiri vahanam flanked by his consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi atop tastefully decorated pearl palanquin

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirumala:** Sri Malayappa Swamy, the processional deity of Lord Venkateswara, took a celestial ride on Simha Vahanam and blessed the devotees in Yoga Narasimha Avataram as part of the ongoing annual Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on Monday morning.

Legends say that Simha, the lion, is a symbol of strength, dignity, majesty and ferociousness. With His incarnation as Nara Mriga Avatara, Lord Vishnu indicated that His powerful avatar aimed to punish the wrongdoers and protect the righteous, poor and the weaker sections



Lord Malayappa along with his consorts on Muthyapu Pandiri vahanam in Tirumala temple on Monday evening

in the society. In the evening, Muthyapu Pandiri vahanam seva was conducted on the third of the Brahmotsavam on Monday. The processional deities Lord Malayappa flanked by his consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi atop tastefully decorated pearl palanquin feasted the eyes of devotees.

Preceding the vahanam seva, Snapana thirumanjanam, celestial bath was performed to the deities amidst chanting of hymns from Scriptures. Pontiffs Pedda Jeeyangar, Chinna Jeeyangar, TTD executive officer Anil Kumar Singhal, addl EO A V Dharma Reddy and others were present.

## 2 women officers to join Navy warships

*Continued from P1*

"The ceremony was presided by Rear Admiral Antony George NM, VSM, Chief Staff Officer (Training) who presented the awards and coveted wings to the graduating officers," Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

In addition, the chief guest also awarded the 'Instructor Badge' to six other officers, (five from the Indian Navy including a woman and another from Indian Coast

Guard) who had successfully graduated as Qualified Navigation Instructors (QNI) on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Rear Admiral Antony George highlighted the fact that it is a landmark occasion wherein for the first-time women will be trained in helicopter operations which would ultimately pave way for the deployment of women in front-line warships of Indian Navy.

## IAF's Rafale fleet to have first woman pilot soon

*Continued from P1*

Ten Rafale jets have been delivered to India so far and five of them stayed back in France for imparting training to IAF pilots. The delivery of all 36 aircraft is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. A second batch of four to five Rafale jets are likely to arrive in India by November.

The Rafale jets are India's first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets were imported from Russia.

The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 of the aircraft at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore.

## 6,235 new cases recorded in State

**Amaravati:** The state reported 6,235 fresh Covid-19 cases on Monday, taking the aggregate to 6,31,749.

In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday, 10,502 patients got discharged from hospitals after recovering from the pandemic infection while 51 succumbed, according to the latest bulletin.

The total number of recoveries now rose to 5,51,821 and fatalities to 5,410, it said, adding that the active cases count dropped further to 74,518.

Only East Godavari district reported fresh cases in four digits, 1,262, with West Godavari and Prakasam coming behind with 962 and 841 respectively.

Krishna district reported the lowest 133. Visakhapatnam district's Covid-19 tally stood at exactly 47,000 after 150 fresh cases were added in 24 hours, the bulletin added. Krishna, however, saw nine fresh fatalities, Chittoor seven, Visakhapatnam six and Anantapuramu five.

## Village, ward sectt exam results within two weeks: Dwivedi

- 14 exams are being held for 19 posts to fill 16,208 vacancies at both village and ward secretariats
- OMR sheets to be screened thrice to maintain accuracy of the results
- The results of Covid patients, who are being allowed to write exam, will be declared separately

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The results of ongoing village and ward secretariat exams are likely to be released within two weeks after completion of the schedule. The exams, which began on Sunday, are scheduled till September 26. Results will be announced by October 10, said Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, principal secretary, panchayat raj and rural de-



velopment. He told The Hans India that the government has arranged everything related to screening of OMR sheets and as soon as the exams are completed, the evaluation process begins. Dwivedi said, "OMR sheet will be screened thrice to ensure accuracy in results. The government is conducting 14 exams for 19 posts to fill 16,208 vacancies at both village and ward secretariats. For these examinations, at least

10,56,931 candidates have applied. In the first two days of the exams, around 75 per cent candidates attended."

Interestingly, the government is planning to announce the results of coronavirus positive patients separately. The government has allowed Covid patients to attend the exams.

The principal secretary explained that they are providing N95 masks, gloves and Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) involved in screening of OMR sheets, apart from following all the Covid-19 protocols at the evaluation centres. Not only announcing the results within a short span of time, but the department is working to induct the newly selected candidates in their respective posts within no time. The announcement of results for all exams would be completed between October 10 to 15.

## BJP demands action against Kodali Nani

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Condemning the comments of civil supplies minister Kodali Nani on Hindu religion, state BJP president Somu Veerajulu lodged a complaint against him at Machavaram police station in Vijayawada on Monday.

He said that every non-Hindu, who wish to have a *darshan* of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala, must declare their faith on the deity.

Veerajulu alleged that the abused the Hindu deities using filthy language. He demanded an unconditional apology to all the Hindus for using a bad language against the Gods.

He accused Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy of enjoying while his ministers and party leaders were berating Hindu faith and its deities in filthy language.



## BIZ BRIEFS

### DHL Express to hike prices

**Hyderabad:** DHL Express, an international express service provider, announced a price increase that would take effect on January 1, 2021. The increase in India will be 6.9 per cent, compared to 2020. Prices are adjusted on an annual basis by DHL Express, taking into consideration inflation and currency dynamics such as administrative costs related to regulatory and security measures. These measures are updated by national and international authorities on a regular basis in each of the more than 220 countries and territories that DHL Express serves. “At DHL Express, it is our endeavor to deliver unparalleled quality to our customers. This needs us to make significant and continuous investments in infrastructure and technology,” said R.S. Subramanian Country Manager, DHL Express India.

### ILF arm in pact with NFSM

**Hyderabad:** Agrochemical company Insecticides (India) Ltd has taken up a CSR project under their foundation ILF Foundation to work for the farmers in the backward areas of the Andhra Pradesh State, with National Food Security Mission (NFSM). Under this project team of agri experts from the parent company of ILF Foundation will educate the farmers and also support them with the latest products so that they can use them and see the difference that these products can bring, so that they start with the modern farming instead of the traditional technique of farming. “We are very proud to be associated with NFSM. As a responsible corporate we will work in the interest of farmers so that their input cost is minimised and productivity is increased”.

### Sunfeast Yippee celebrates 10 yrs

**Hyderabad:** Sunfeast Yippee, an instant noodles brand, commemorated its 10th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the brand invited consumers’ on its Facebook event page to capture and share their Yippee noodle eating moments. In doing so, the activity translated into achieving a Guinness Wprld Records title for ‘most photos of people eating noodles uploaded to Facebook in one hour’. All participants will also be receiving a memorabilia in the form of an official letter of participation by Guinness World Records and Sunfeast Yippee. Hemant Malik, Divisional Chief Executive, Foods Division, ITC, “The record feat aptly reflects India’s love for the noodles and we are glad to have enabled a befitting celebration of India’s noodle-loving spirit to a global audience. A heartfelt gratitude goes out to our consumers”.

### Realme unveils narzo 20 series

**Hyderabad:** Realme, a smartphone brand, launched its new smartphone series, the narzo 20 series. It features three trail-blazing smartphones - narzo 20 Pro, 20 and 20A. Apart from offering best in segment processors, fast charge and mega batteries with the narzo 20 series, realme also unveiled the up-graded realme UI 2.0, centralizing on seamless creativity for Gen Z users. Madhav Sheth, Chief Executive Officer, Realme India and Europe, said, “The narzo 10 series embodied our gene of ‘power meets style’. We reached a milestone of 1 million narzo users within a short period of time. Covering diverse price points, the narzo 20 series will cement realme’s positioning as a youthful brand, deepening our reach among millions of aspiring smartphone buyers”.

# Monday Mayhem: Stocks bleed on bourses

## Markets crash amid global meltdown on renewed virus fears

**Mumbai:** The BSE Sensex dived 812 points, while the Nifty closed below the 11,300 mark on Monday, in tandem with a global selloff after a resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe stoked fears of another round of lockdowns.

Denmark, Greece and Spain have imposed fresh restrictions on activities to tackle a surge in Covid-19 infections. Britain too is considering a second nation-wide lockdown, prompting investors in Europe to offload travel, consumption and banking stocks. Falling for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex index ended 811.68 points or 2.09 per cent lower at 38,034.14. Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 254.40 points or 2.21 per cent to finish at 11,250.55.

IndusInd Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, tanking 8.67 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, M&M, Maruti, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finance. Only three index components ended in the green -- Kotak



Bank, Infosys and TCS, rising up to 0.86 per cent. The market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies fell to Rs 1,54,76,979.16 crore, wiping off Rs 4.23 lakh crore of investor wealth.

“Indian benchmark indices succumbed to profit booking in the second half of the trading day and

ended more than two per cent down. It was in sync with global cues which turned negative following a surge in infections in various countries including in Europe. Additional restrictions were being considered in Europe following an increase in infections. With high valuations and worries that earn-

ings may not justify such valuations anytime soon, markets may trade uncertain for the time being. Stay cautious,” said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services. All sectoral indices ended in the red, with BSE telecom, realty, metal, auto, healthcare and basic materials cracking up to

5.77 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices crashed as much as 3.61 per cent. In rest of Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended significantly lower. Stock exchanges in Europe witnessed heavy selloff in opening trade, declining up to three per cent.

## RESURGENCE OF COVID-19

- Key indices in sync with global cues, which turned negative
- All sectoral indices ended in the red
- Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices crashed 3.61%
- Europe bourses witnessed heavy selloff in opening trade



**Britain may go for a second nation-wide lockdown**

- EU stocks were trading 3% lower
- A resurfacing coronavirus cases in Europe stoked fears of another round of lockdowns
- Denmark, Greece and Spain have imposed fresh restrictions

## ... evaporates ₹4.23-lakh cr investor wealth

**New Delhi:** A massive selloff in the equity market eroded Rs 4,23,139.78 crore from investors’ wealth in a single trading session on Monday. Markets witnessed significant selling pressure in the second half of trade and the 30-share BSE benchmark index ended 811.68 points or 2.09 per cent lower at 38,034.14. Following weakness in the equity market, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies plummeted by Rs 4,23,139.78 crore to Rs 1,54,76,979.16 crore.

On Friday, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies was at Rs 1,59,00,118.94 crore.

“Indian benchmark indices succumbed to profit booking in the second half of the trading day. It was in sync with global cues which turned negative following surge in infections in various countries including in Europe. Additional restrictions were being considered in Europe following an increase in infections,” said Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services. IndusInd

Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, tumbling 8.67 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, M&M, Maruti and Axis Bank, while Kotak Bank, Infosys and TCS were the only three gainers from the 30-share frontline companies list. “Markets started the week on feeble note and lost nearly 2.5 per cent, following weak global peers. The first half was lackluster. However, significant selling pressure was witnessed in the latter half. “We feel rising

Covid-19 cases combined with correction in the US markets spooked investors,” Ajit Mishra, V-P - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. On the BSE, 2,165 companies declined, while 595 advanced and 178 remained unchanged. In the broader market, the BSE small-cap and mid-cap indices declined up to 3.61 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices closed in the red, with BSE telecom, realty, metal and auto tanking up to 5.77 per cent.

## Over 3.8 lakh cos struck off under Companies Law in 3 yrs: Govt

**New Delhi:** More than 3.8 lakh companies have been struck off from official records under the Companies Law during the past three years, according to the government. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs (MoSCA) Anurag Singh Thakur also said “the term ‘shell company’ is not defined under the Companies Act. It normally refers to a company without active business operation or significant assets, which in some cases are used for illegal purpose such as tax evasion, money laundering, obscuring ownership, benami properties, etc.”

The Special Task Force set up by the government to look into the issue of shell companies has recommended the use of certain red flag indicators as alerts for identification of shell companies. According to the minister, the government has undertaken a special drive for identification and then to strike off shell companies. Based on non-filing of financial



statements consecutively for two years or more, companies were identified and after following due process of law, “3,82,581 number of companies were struck off during the last three years,” Thakur said.

This was done as provided under Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016. In a separate written reply, the minister said that under Section 182 of the Companies Act, companies, other than government companies and companies less than three years old, are allowed directly or indirectly to contribute to any political party with the approval of their boards of directors.

## HCL to acquire DWS

**New Delhi:** HCL Technologies has decided to acquire Australian IT solutions firm DWS Ltd, a move that will help the Indian company strengthen its position in the Australia and New Zealand market.

In a regulatory filing, HCL Technologies said the total equity value payout will be 158.2 million Australian dollars (about Rs 850.33 crore) after considering a total number of shares at 131.83 million on a fully diluted basis. The shareholders of DWS will also get a dividend of 0.03 Australian dollars per share which was declared by the company in its recent announcement of Annual Corporate Earnings for FY20 (June-end), it added. “The ac-

quisition of DWS will strongly enhance HCL’s contribution to digital initiatives in Australia and New Zealand while strengthening HCL’s client portfolio across key industries,” HCL said in a statement. “This acquisition represents an outstanding outcome for all DWS stakeholders: shareholders, employees, clients and other business partners,” added Danny Wallis, CEO and Managing Director of DWS.

The acquisition news pushed HCL shares up five per cent in early trade. However, HCL Tech shares erased early gains and closed one per cent lower due to profit-booking.



## Natco Pharma plans new product launches

### To take up diversification plan

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Drug major Natco Pharma will diversify its product portfolio in the domestic market as it’s planning to make up for a drop in business of some of its prominent product categories. The drug maker’s oncology segment suffered in the last financial year due to pricing controls from the government, and its Hepatitis-C business continued to decline due to reduction in market size.

VC Nannapaneni, Natco Pharma CMD in the company’s annual report 2019-20, said: “We are planning for new product launches in the non-oncology segment to mitigate the impact of the Hepatitis-C market decline. Oncology continues to be the company’s most important segment in the domestic market. Currently, it has 33 products in the cancer treatment drug segment. In spite of these factors that caused the domestic business downturn, the drug maker launched eight products during the last financial year and continued to retain its market position in key segments.” Also, during the fourth quarter, the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in cancer patients postponing their hospital visits and chemotherapy procedures, the company said. All these factors collectively pushed the business to decline during the year, it added. On the domestic business front, the company is cautiously optimistic about its commercial foray of the crop health sciences division in the near future, he added.



## BigLeap opens new centre in Hyd

HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** City-based BigLeap Technologies & Solutions, an HR staffing company, on Monday opened its new facility in the city. The company announced plans to add 6000 staff by 2021, and double its turnover in the next two years. With this staff addition, the company will have over 10,000 employees on its outsourcing rolls.

BigLeap’s new facility, set up with an investment of Rs 2.5 crore was inaugurated by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce (I&C) & Information Technology (IT), Telangana.

Founded in the year 2015 by industry experts Vinay Kotra, James Johnson, Manoj Yadav Thummala, and Sainath Goud Malkapuram, BigLeap has operations and strong presence in 22 operational states and 18 ESI compliant territories including Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, New Delhi NCR and Mumbai.

## COVID IMPACT Consumers shifting to low range phones

**New Delhi:** As consumers prioritise spending on essentials amid economic uncertainties in the pandemic times, they are buying more low-to-mid range smartphones and 73 per cent of smartphone shipments in 2020 is expected to be priced below \$400, according to a new report.

According to a new price band forecast from the IDC “Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker,” smartphone value is expected to decline 7.9 per cent in 2020 to \$422.4 billion - down from \$458.5 billion in 2019.

Overall, the low-to-mid end segment (\$100 to less than \$400) dominated global smartphone shipments with 60 per cent market share in the second quarter this year and is expected to grow in the short term to 63 per cent by next year. “Rising unemploy-



ment rates and job uncertainty have influenced consumers’ buying patterns towards economic and affordable products. Subsequently, the overall portfolio in smartphones is moving toward low-to-mid end devices,” said Sangeetika Srivastava, senior research analyst with IDC’s Worldwide Mobile Device Trackers.

“This has intensified competition as market players need to continue presenting attractive deals and bundling offers to encourage consumers to purchase a new device, especially in the higher-priced segments”.

## EV penetration remains low

**New Delhi:** Ratings agency Icrs on Monday said domestic penetration of electric vehicles (EV) will remain low in the medium-term in segments like passenger vehicles (PVs) and commercial vehicles (CVs) due to high prices and lack of financial incentives from the government.

Unless there is standardisation of battery specifications, including charger specifications, across the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), a meaningful success in battery-swapping adoption is unlikely, ICRA said in a statement. Ruling out any meaningful domestic penetration of EVs in the key automotive segments like the PVs (passenger vehicles) and the CVs (commercial vehicles), ICRA cited high prices and absence of strong direct and indirect financial stimulus from the government for encouraging adoption of EVs.

“At present, FAME-II incentive for electric passenger vehicles is restricted to the commercial taxi segment only which also highlights the Government



**High prices, lack of sops hit passenger vehicles & commercial vehicles segments: Icrs**

of India’s awareness that the attractiveness of EVs for personal car buyers will remain distant in the near to medium term,” Icrs said.

The ratings agency further said the modality of vehicle financing in a battery-swappable model, where core battery is owned/leased by a third party and financiers only have control over residual vehicle, is another challenge. This apart, it said EV vendor systems need substantial investments to keep costs under check and reduce dependence on imported electronic systems. ICRA believes

that battery swapping will face strong resistance from automobile OEMs due to a possible impact on their product differentiation capabilities as well as pricing flexibility. Its acceptance therefore will be limited to certain less complex automotive sub-segments like the three-wheelers.

“Further, given the importance of battery hardware and software in the overall performance of an EV, battery swapping will face strong resistance in technologically complex products like cars or two-wheelers,” the ratings agency said. ICRA Vice President & Co-Head Ashish Modani said, “The price sensitive nature of the Indian market implies the EVs need to be priced competitively, which in turn demands ‘economies of scale’.”

He said EV prices are currently higher than that of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. This coupled with a lack of public charging infrastructure has resulted in minimal EV penetration in the country.



# GHMC polls: Parties sought opinion on voting methods

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The State Election Commission has started preparations for the elections to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), as the Commission on Monday wrote to all the political parties seeking their opinion on conduct of polls through ballot or Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the wake of Covid pandemic.

The Commission has asked the political parties to convey their opinions by September 30, and if they fail to respond by the set date, then it would be construed that the party has no opinion to it.

The term of the present body expires in February 2021 and this would be the second election to the GHMC after the formation of Telangana State. The newly-appointed State Election Commissioner C Parthasarathi recently convened a review



meeting with the GHMC officials and discussed issues and challenges, which might arise in the wake of pandemic. The officials had discussed making a plan of action for the pre-election activities like preparation of electoral rolls, polling stations, election staff etc. The have decided to have one polling booth for 800 voters so as to maintain physical distancing during the voting.

The SEC officials would soon have another meeting in the first week of October with the GHMC staff and take up the updating of electoral rolls. There are 150 divisions in the GHMC and during the previous elections in 2016, the TRS won 99 divisions. This time the city is going to have a woman mayor as per the draw taken out during the municipal elections held last year.

# Eatala wants major overhaul of health department

- The Health Minister suggests disease mapping to identify places where there most cases of malaria, filarial or flourosis are being reported
- Every State hospital should have a reception counter to guide patients visiting there
- The health condition of the in-patient has to be communicated to their family members from time to time

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Laying stress on a slew of reforms in his department, Health Minister Eatala Rajender wanted them to be implemented to bring a major overhaul in the working of the department in the next 12 months.

During the review meeting with officials on Monday, Eatala wanted disease mapping to be done to identify places where there most cases of malaria, filarial or flourosis are being reported and accordingly stocks of required medicines should be made available there.

Eatala wanted computeriza-



tion to be done in stocking medicines from PHCs to tertiary hospitals so that medicines that are nearing expiry date could be easily identified and due measures have to be taken. Even in PHCs only those medicines that are required have to be kept and for this a software has to be created. Account and record of every drug have to be kept, the Minister said. He pointed out that the first time in the history of the Health department expired medicines were returned to pharma companies and the corresponding

amount was collected.

Every State hospital should have a reception counter to guide patients visiting there, he said, adding that health condition of the in-patient has to be communicated to their family members from time to time.

Pointing out that the number of State hospitals outnumber the private hospitals and clinics, Eatala wanted referral system be introduced so that patients from PHCs are guided to major State hospitals in the districts. He wanted Asha workers at PHC

level to play a proactive role to guide patients.

Eatala said KCR kits helped in 50 per cent of deliveries in state being done in the State hospitals, how schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubaarak helped in containing child marriages as schemes are given to brides who cross 18 years of age only.

Eatala called upon doctors and nurses to work with people-oriented and duty oriented mindset to improve healthcare in the state hospitals and health centers.

# Agri Act a conspiracy against farm sector: Talasani

- What was the need to bring the Bill when the entire farming community was protesting in the country, asks the Minister
- Says Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will lead the farmers' agitation in the country

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Allying that the new Agriculture Act was a conspiracy to hand over the farm sector to corporate companies, Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Monday said that if needed Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would lead the farmers agitation in the country.

The Minister lashed out at the BJP government at the Cen-



tre for bringing an 'anti farmer' Act. What was the need to bring the bill when the entire farming community was protesting in the country, asked the Minister. How the government could pass the Bill with the voice vote when they are not in majority in Rajya Sabha.

There should be debate in the House when bills are introduced but it was passed without any discussion. "When the Revenue Act was brought in the State, the farmers erupted in joy whereas they are protesting now. Even Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu was against the

Bill hence he was not in Rajya Sabha when the Bill was passed," said Srinivas Yadav demanding withdrawal of the Act. The Minister said that revolution has started by the farmers in the country and if needed the TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao would lead the movement. He said that the BJP government, which has murdered democracy, would not last long. The farmers have started revolution against the government, he said.

Replying to a question, the Minister said that the double bedroom houses scheme was a continuous process. He accepted that there was delay in construction but added that the delay was caused due to the corona pandemic. Yadav said that since there was no land available in the city, the houses were constructed in the nearby areas. 90 per cent reservations would be provided to the Hyderabad city residents in those sites.

# After girl's death, GHMC decides to cover open drains

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** In the wake of death of a 12-year old girl after she skid into a drain while cycling, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has swung into action and decided to take up nala capping (construction of box drains) on the open drains which are less than two meters width, with a budget of Rs 300 crore.

This was announced by Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao during a review meeting with the municipal officials on Monday. The Minister said that GHMC would soon commence the capping works on nalas which are less than two metres in width and instructed the officials to come up with an action plan to complete the works in time.

Administrative sanction for Rs 300 crore would be accorded shortly to execute the works, said KTR, adding that the government would soon provide all the permissions and the required support to take up the works. Stating that most of the nalas, which are less than two metres wide, are located in densely populated areas, the Minister asked the officials to take all the precautions to avoid any untoward incidents.

At nalas, which are more than two metres in width and where the execution of capping works was not feasible, the Minister directed officials to take up fencing works as per National Green Tribunal and Supreme Court guidelines. The municipal corporation is equipped with details of nalas across its limits. The Minister wanted the officials to focus on new areas and addition of new nalas, especially with the expansion of city limits.

# Excise Minister holds meeting on MLC elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Excise Minister Srinivas Goud held the TRS party meeting at Eden plaza in Shadnagar on Monday.

On the occasion, the minister said that the TRS party activists should provide their support to the TRS candidate in upcoming graduate MLC elections and help the candidates to win in the elections. The notification regarding the MLC elections may be released in next month.



Excise Minister Srinivas Goud addressing the gathering at Eden Plaza

Shadnagar MLA Anjaiah Yadav, District ZP Chairperson Anitha Reddy, ZP Vice chairperson Eta Ganesh, Shadnagar Municipal Chairman Narender,

Vice-chairman Natraj, Farooqnagar MPP Idris Ahmad, Keshampet MPP Ravinder Yadav, ZPTC Venkat Ram Reddy were also present.

# 'Corporators shall solve people's grievances on immediate basis'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Monday said that it was the responsibility of the corporators to enroll every graduate as a voter in their respective divisions for the ensuing Council elections to be elected through graduates.

The Minister was speaking in a meeting of GHMC corporators at Pingali Venkataramaiah function hall here. The Minister said that every corporator should identify the graduates in their divisions and encourage them to register

as voters. Srinivas Yadav also called upon the corporators to be alert in wake of the heavy rains in the city. He asked them to solve the grievances of the people immediately when they bring issues to their notice. He lauded the efforts of corporators during the lockdown when they stood behind the people in need. He directed the corporators to bring pending issues to him if they are unsolvable in their capacity.

Ministers Md Mahamood Ali, Ch Malla Reddy, MLA M Gopal, MLCs Prabhakar, Janardhan Reddy and others were also present.

# BJP flagpole destroyed; action sought against miscreants

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** BJP leader Nelli Sreevardhan Reddy strongly condemned the lack of progress by the police in solving the case where unidentified miscreants destroyed a BJP flagpole in Gangannaguda village in Kondurg zone of the district on the night of September 12. He submitted a letter to the Shamshabad DCP Prakash Reddy on Monday asking them to trace the wrongdoers as soon as possible. He requested them to take appropriate steps for the reconstruction of the flagpole.

BJP district general secre-



BJP leaders headed by Nelli Sreevardhan Reddy submitting a request letter to Shamshabad DCP

tary Depally Ashok Goud, Kondurg mandal president Srisailam, Gangannaguda vice

sarpanch Laxmikanth Reddy, Manikyam, Hanmanth and others were also present.

# HBL employees seek Srinivas Goud's help

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** The HBL workers who were illegally laid off by company, submitted a petition to Minister Srinivas Goud during his visit to Nandigama requesting him to resolve their issues on Monday.

The workers requested Goud to look into their problems and solve it. They also said that the company has laid-off 40 employees without any notice. They said that they are facing problems without employment and are facing financial issues from the past four months.

On the occasion, the Minister said that he would be looking into the issue and will find a solution to solve their problem.

Telangana Girijana Association Convener Srinu Nayak, District Consumer Forum Leaders Balaraju, Anjaneyulu, Satyanarayana, Kashi and others were also present.



# Govt to set up stadiums in all constituencies

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** State Excise and Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud inaugurated a mini stadium in Shadnagar which was constructed with the cost of Rs 2.10 crore on Monday.

On this occasion, the Minister said that the Telangana government is planning to set up stadiums in each constituency across the State. Stating that the government is striving to develop all the sectors in the State, he requested donors to come forward and try to help in the development of the sports sector.

The State government is planning to construct

Laxmidevally Project in Shadnagar constituency, he informed.

Shadnagar MLA Anjaiah Yadav, district ZP chairperson Anitha Reddy, Shadnagar municipal chairman Narender, vice-chairman Natraj, Farooqnagar MPP Idris, Keshampet MPP Ravinder Yadav, Shadnagar RDO Rajeshwari and others were also present.



State Excise and Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud inaugurating a mini stadium in Shadnagar on Monday

# MLA distributes cheques

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Ibrahimpatnam MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy distributed Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi cheques worth Rs 2.20 crore to 220 beneficiaries in Ibrahimpatnam and cheques worth Rs 1.06 crore to 192 beneficiaries in Abdullahpurmet.

On the occasion, the MLA said that the government is providing financial assistance for mar-

riages by the government of Telangana, a novel scheme for all poor people in the State through Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak scheme. The Telangana government will always strive for the development of the public and the State, he added.

Ibrahimpatnam MPP Kru-pesh, Municipal Chairperson Sravanthi Chandu, Vice-chairman Akula Yadagiri and other local leaders participated in the programme.

# Minister inspects waterlogged colonies

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Ranga Reddy:** Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy inspected waterlogged colonies in Meerpet Municipal Corporation on Monday. Mithila Nagar, MLR colony, Sai Nagar colony were waterlogged due to heavy downpour and the water entered into houses. The minister spoke to the residents of those colonies.

On the occasion, the minister instructed the officials to take measures to help the people in waterlogged colonies and supply drinking water with the help of tanks. A trunk line is being



Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy talking to the residents

constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 23 crore and the waterlogging problem will be

solved once the construction works are finished. Meerpet Municipal Corporation Mayor

Durga Deepal Chowhan, Deputy Mayor Vikram Reddy and others were also present.



# KINGS XI PUNJAB APPEAL AGAINST 1-RUN SHORT ERROR

**Dubai:** Kings XI Punjab have appealed to match referee JavagalSrinath against the erroneous one-run short signal by umpire NitinMenon in the IPL 2020 clash against Delhi Capitals in Dubai on Sunday. The incident occurred in the third ball of the 19th over of the match when Chris Jordan turned for a second run to get MayankAgarwal back on strike. However, umpire Menon ruled it one-run short and it proved to be costly, with Delhi Capitals managing to tie the match and winning it in the Super Over.

Kings XI Punjab CEO Satish-Menon has said the decision to appeal was taken as there was no 'place for such errors' in IPL and that this kind of decision could cost them a potential spot in the playoffs in the near future. "We have appealed to the match referee," he told PTI. "While a human error can happen and we understand that, there is no room for human errors like these in a world-class tournament like the IPL. This one could cost us a playoff berth. A loss of a game is a loss of a game. It is unfair. I hope the rules are reviewed so that there is no margin for human error," SatishMenon said. The appeal has been regis-



tered and it is highly unlikely that the result might be reversed. According to the IPL playing conditions, the onfield umpire can use the third umpire only in the case of a dismissal, boundary or the no-ball. The one-run short incident resulted in plenty of anger on social media, with VirenderSehwag calling for the Man of the Match to be given to the umpire.

**Today's fixture**  
**Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals**  
**at 7.30 pm**

## Sehwag takes jibe at umpire

**Dubai (IANS):** Former India batsman VirenderSehwag slammed the umpiring during Kings XI Punjab and Delhi Capitals' Indian Premier League (IPL) game after Chris Jordan's run was adjudged not complete despite replays showing the bat had crossed the line.

After being pushed to the brink, the Delhi Capitals (DC) held their nerve to edge out the Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in a heart-stopping Super Over decider to open their IPL campaign on a positive note on Sunday. After

the 20-over-per-innings match was tied at 157 runs, the Super Over was enforced and in the pressure cooker situation, ShreyasIyer's Delhi team prevailed at the Sharjah International Cricket Stadium.

During the 19th over of KXIP's innings when MayankAgarwal and Chris Jordan were batting, the square leg umpire adjudged that a second run taken by England's Jordan was not complete.

Replays showed Jordan's bat had crossed the line. "I don't agree with the man of the

match choice. The umpire who gave this short run should have been man of the match. Short Run nahintha. And that was the difference," wrote Sehwag on his Twitter account.

Bowling first in the Super Over, Delhi's South African pacer KagisoRabada kept his cool to snare two wickets and concede just a couple of runs to KL Rahul's team.

Chasing, Delhi easily hunted down the three-run target to start their campaign with a thrilling victory.



## Dhoni prefers players who are good in all depts: Chahar

**Dubai(IANS):** Chennai Super Kings (CSK) pacer Deepak Chahar has revealed skipper M.S. Dhoni prefers players who can contribute in all departments, especially in the shortest format of the game.

India pacer Chahar was one of the top performers of CSK with 22 wickets in 17 matches at an economy rate of 7.63.

CSK won their IPL opener against Mumbai Indians by five wickets as Chahar bagged two wickets.

"I think Dhoni prefers those who are good in all departments. He likes those who can contribute in batting, bowling and fielding. A bowler can have a bad day but he can change a match by grabbing a good catch or can win the batch with a six or a four," Chahar told former India opener Aakash Chopra in his show 'Aakash-Vaani'.

"If you look at our team, we have many players who are good in every department. T20 is a format that requires you to do everything. There are a lot of teams in the IPL which have a strong batting line-up or a strong bowling

attack but they remain dependent on a few cricketers. If they do well, they end up winning you matches single-handedly but if they don't, the team struggles," Chahar said.

It was former India captain Dhoni who got Chahar into now defunct Rising Pune Supergiant in IPL 2016 before also drafting him in to three-time winners CSK.

"Generally you don't give the old ball to bowlers who have pace of 120-125 km/h but when I was playing for RPS and even for CSK I was bowling at around 140 but still he didn't give me the ball in the death," Chahar said, throwing light on his initial journey under Dhoni, regarded as one of the greatest white-ball captains of all time.

"I had asked this to Mahibhai. He gave me a two-word answer and then I couldn't say much. So I asked the bowling coach a couple of times, he also said I should be bowled in the death overs. Finally, I gathered some courage and asked Mahibhai when he was sitting in a room. He said, 'groom players' and that's it. He didn't say anything else," Chahar added.

**CA recruits experts to improve diversity, inclusion**

**Sydney (IANS):** Cricket Australia will enlist the assistance of a wide range of experts and sportspeople to develop the next stage of its diversity and inclusion action plan.

Cricketers UsmanKhawaja and Elyse Villani, along with Graeme Innes AM, former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner and member of the blind community, are among those who will assist with the process.

Working groups have been formed comprising a combination of external members and CA employees across three areas: disability, cultural diversity and diverse genders and sexuality.

The program is intended to ensure Cricket Australia has the best possible action plan to guide decisions made across all parts of the game and will work hand in hand with Cricket Australia's existing Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan launched in December 2019.



## Spaniard Fran Sandaza joins Hyderabad FC

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad FC added further experience to their squad with the signing of Spanish forward Francisco 'Fran' Sandaza on a one-year deal, the club announced on Monday. The 35-year-old signs from Spanish Segunda Division side Alcorcon, and becomes the sixth new foreign signing for the club this season.

"I am very happy and excited to sign for this club. It is a new challenge in my career and I am eager to arrive in India start training with my new teammates. The Indian Super League is improving every year. A lot of good players have played in the league so far. I have played with and against a few of them that have told me good things about the ISL, so I am keen to be part of it," said Sandaza after completing formalities.

## Injured Ashwin says he'll be ready for next game



**Dubai (PTI):** Delhi Capitals captain ShreyasIyer said senior India off-spinner RavichandranAshwin is hopeful of recovering from his shoulder injury before their next IPL game but a final call on his availability will rest with the team physio.

Ashwin endured dream and nightmare in a space of six deliveries as he scalped two KXIP batsmen and then suffered a suspected shoulder dislocation on Sunday.

"I briefly spoke to Ashwin, and Ashwin said he'll be ready for the next game. But at the end of the day it's the physio's decision," Iyer said after Delhi Capitals beat Kings XI Punjab in Super Over in their opening IPL 13 match here on Sunday night.

"He's a strong-minded guy and hopefully he will be available." Brought in during the final Powerplay over, Ashwin first got rid of Karun Nair and then bowled Nicholas Pooran through the gate but a needless dive to stop a single off the last delivery saw him land awkwardly on his left arm with shoulder taking the jerk.

Writhing in pain, Ashwin's jersey became a temporary sling as he left the field along with Capitals' physio Patrick Farhard.

A shoulder dislocation could rule Ashwin out of tournament, which has been shifted to UAE this year because of rising COVID-19 cases in India. It is Ashwin's first season with Delhi Capitals. He had played for Kings XI Punjab last year.

## It really hurts not to close off game against DC: Mayank

**Dubai:** Crestfallen after losing their IPL opener, Kings XI Punjab batsman MayankAgarwal said it felt terrible to not close off the game after making a stupendous comeback against Delhi Capitals here.

Chasing 158 to win, KXIP were looking down the barrel at 55 for 5 but Agarwal's blistering 89-run knock took them to 157. They needed one run off the final two balls but Marcus Stoinis' twin strike took the game to the Super Over, which they lost on Sunday night.

"We had a tough day. There are a lot of positives to take out. The way we came back was fantastic, the way we bowled with the new ball was terrific. It really hurts to not close off the game from the situation we were in, feels terrible," Mayank told KXIP TV.

"This is just the first game. We can get things rolling again, let's see how we will go in the coming games. I think to play a game like that first up was fantastic. Everyone was up for it, guys really put in the effort. Definitely, we should have finished the game when we needed one run," he added. The 29-year-old from Bengaluru said 158 was a decent score to chase.

"It was a par score and going into the break, we knew that if we can stitch a partnership and not give them wickets with the new ball, we could win the game," he said at the post-match press conference.

## Dhawan misses chance to equal Raina's record

**Dubai (IANS):** Delhi Capitals star batsman ShikharDhawan missed out on a chance to equal Suresh Raina's Indian Premier League milestone.

During the Sunday game, Dhawan scored a duck as Delhi beat Kings XI Punjab in the one-over eliminator. The left-handed batsman has scored 37 half-centuries in 159 IPL matches so far and needed one more 50 on Sunday to equal Raina's record of 38 IPL fifties -- which is the highest by any Indian player. After being pushed to the brink, the Delhi Capitals (DC) held their nerve to edge out the Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in a heart-stopping Super Over decider to open their IPL campaign on a positive note. After the 20-over-per-innings match was tied at 157 runs, the Super Over was enforced and in the pressure cooker situation, ShreyasIyer's Delhi team prevailed at the Sharjah International Cricket Stadium.

## WORLD CUP EXCLUSION

## Harbhajan says injustice done to Rayudu

**New Delhi:** Veteran India spinner Harbhajan Singh praised the performance put on by AmbatiRayudu in the opening game of the 13th edition of Indian Premier League and said that he deserved a spot in the World Cup squad last year. Rayudu was pegged to be India's choice for no. 4 batting slot in the World Cup squad last year but he was pipped to the post by Vijay Shankar.



In the season opener of IPL 2020 between Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians, Rayudu smashed 71 runs in 48 balls for CSK to help his side chase down a total of 163.


"The partnership between Rayudu



and Du Plessis was the game-changing moment for Chennai Super Kings. We have made a bright start and we need to keep moving forward like this," Harbhajan said in an interview with Sports Tak. The CSK off-spinner further said: "I remember that when we had won the IPL two years back, we had defeated Mumbai Indians in the first game. So, it is a good omen for us and I hope we will finish well again."

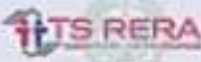
On being asked what he has to say about Rayudu's performance, Harbhajan said that he feels that Rayudu not getting selected for World Cup 2019 was an 'injustice' done to him.





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Printed and Published by K. Hanumanta Rao, on behalf of Hyderabad Media House Pvt. Limited, Flat.No.609, 6th Floor, Kirti Shikhar Building, Plot.No.11, Dist.Center, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058.  
and Printed at M/s. Marutinandan Printers & Publishers, A-15, Bara Bagh, G.T Karnal Road, Industrial Area, New Delhi - 110033. Editor: V Ramu Sarma. RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095